TUESDAY
January 23, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/whatsapp
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

Vol. 55 • No. 19

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

YATRA DISRUPTED

Rahul denied entry to shrine in Assam

NEWS » PAGE 12

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

DeSantis drops his bid, backs Trump

WORLD » PAGE 16

DEAL IS OFF

Sony calls off $10-bn merger with Zee

BUSINESS » PAGE 15

DISTRIBUTION FORMULA

Tax contribution by States needs to be revisited

It is a good measure of efficiency of a State

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

PERSONAL REASONS

Kohli to miss first two Tests against England

SPORT » PAGE 17

Rituals done, PM calls it a historic day

- Modi performs consecration rituals inside Ram Temple's *sanctum sanctorum*
- He addresses 8,000 guests in Ayodhya, says 'Ram Lalla' will not be in a 'tent' any longer
- Prime Minister thanks the judiciary for 'upholding dignity of law and justice'

Mayank Kumar
AYODHYA

The *pran pratishtha*, or consecration, of the idol of Lord Ram at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya took place on Monday, amid chanting of hymns and conduct of rituals, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries in attendance. Mr. Modi, who participated in the ceremony, termed it a historic day, stating that it was akin to a "nation rising by breaking the mentality of slavery, drawing courage from every affliction of the past and creating a new history".

Mr. Modi, one of the *yajmans* (empowered to conduct the ritual) of the ceremony, took the *sankalp* (a resolution) for the *pran pratishtha*, and later walked inside the *sanctum sanctorum* of the temple with a silver *chattar* (metal deity) placed on a red folded sheet of cloth.

The consecration rituals were performed inside the *sanctum sanctorum* by Mr. Modi, which took place during the *abhijeet muhurta* (a highly auspicious period in Vedic astrology).

After the ceremony, Mr. Modi broke his 11-day fast, which was part of his spiritual preparation for the rituals.

'Moment of humility'

Later addressing a gathering of around 8,000 dignitaries and guests, the Prime Minister said "Ram Lalla" (as the deity is named) would not be in a "tent" any longer, a reference to the makeshift arrangement that had been put in place after the destruction of the Babri Masjid.

Mr. Modi said the moment was not just of "*vijay*" (victory) but also "*vinay*" (humility), and invited those who had opposed the Ram Temple to also come and experience the feeling.

Expressing gratitude to the judiciary for upholding the dignity of law and justice, he said the grand temple was built in a judicial manner.

"In our Constitution, in its first copy, Lord Ram is there. Even after the advent of the Constitution, legal battles over the existence of Lord Shri Ram continued for decades. I express my gratitude to the judiciary, which upheld the dignity of justice. The temple of Lord Ram, synonymous with justice, was also built in a judicial manner," said Mr. Modi.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
FROM FEAR TO HOPE
» PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 2, 9 & 13

Holy occasion: Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads the rituals at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat are present. ANI

Stop fighting over petty issues, says RSS chief

NEW DELHI

Speaking after the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said in *Ram Rajya*, people should stop fighting over petty issues. He added that the event marked the break of a new dawn in India. » PAGE 13

Oral orders to ban telecast are not binding: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the police and State authorities were not bound to act on any "oral orders" to ban the live telecast of *pran pratishtha* of Lord Ram at Ayodhya and conduct of poojas linked to the event.

Chinese vessel in Indian Ocean now, 'heading' to Male

Dinakar Peri
Meera Srinivasan
NEW DELHI/ COLOMBO

The destination is noteworthy given the moratorium on foreign research vessels by Sri Lanka

The Chinese research vessel *Xiang Yang Hong 03* is entering the Indian Ocean and headed to Maldives, according to Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) observers and maritime tracking portals. Official sources acknowledged the development but did not comment on it.

The destination – Male – is noteworthy given the moratorium on foreign research vessels by Sri Lanka and the ongoing friction between India and Maldives over Indian troops stationed there.

"Xiang Yang Hong 03 a Chinese ocean research vessel is entering the Indian Ocean Region [IOR], displaying its destination as Male, the vessel is expected to run an ocean survey operation in the Indian Ocean Region raising concern in India," OSINT handle @detresfa posted on X.

"This is routine movement," an Indian official source said without commenting further.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, there has been steady rise in the deployment of Chinese research vessels in the IOR and the general area of deployment has been observed around the Ninety Degree East Ridge and Southwest Indian Ridge. These vessels have powerful equipment for snooping and gathering a range of data.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

RAU'S IAS STUDY CIRCLE @ 70 years of commitment, achievement & trust

Are you ready for
Prelims 2024?

CSAT CLASSES

- **120+ hours** of Concept Clarity classes
- Ample Practice via **PYQ** & **Topic Tests**
- Personal **Mentorship** & Doubt Solving
- **Offline** & **Live-Online** Batches starting **29 JAN**

GS Prelims

QIP Classes + TEST SERIES

- **100+ Hrs Quality Improvement Program** with video Back up till Prelims.
- **Revise & Improve -** cover all important **Static & Current** topics.
- **1 to 1 Mentorship.**

Thematic 20 | Subject 6 | FLTs 12
Pre-Pareekshan, All India Tests 3
Current Affairs 15
Budget & Economic Survey 1

QIP Classes will start from **11 March**
Multiple courses available as per need. Check here

Delhi | Bengaluru
www.rauias.com | 011 – 4078 6050 | 080 – 4142 6050 | compass.rauias.com

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम
Union Bank of India
A Government of India Undertaking

Unlock 365+ services for seamless banking

Pursue your growth story with the **VYOM App:**

- Transact, Invest & Insure
- Pay, Shop, Book & more
- Doorstep Banking
- Credit Card Services
- Government Schemes

T&C Apply

VYOM
We're that fast!
#ChooseHappiness
Download Now

(Toll Free No.) 1800 222 244 / 1800 222 243 / 1800 425 1515 / 1800 208 2244 | www.unionbankofindia.co.in
unionbankofindia | UnionBankTweets | UnionBankInsta | UnionBankofIndiaUtube | unionbankofindia | unionbankinsta

A BG-BGE

Tendulkar & Co. get back on the field for a humanitarian cause

Star cricketers from eight countries were in strength, playing a T20 match to promote the message 'One World One Family' and throw light on the work being done to provide nutrition, education and health care to needy children, free of cost

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kamesh Srinivasan

For the 2000-odd school kids assembled at the Sai Krishnan stadium in Muddenahalli in Karnataka, it was a rare privilege to watch Sachin Tendulkar in action.

The venue itself had a capacity of only about 3,500, but Tendulkar and the other star cricketers from eight countries were in strength, playing a T20 match to inspire the children, entertaining everyone in the process.

The focus was to promote the message *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* – One World One Family. More than that, the aim was to throw light on the work being done in the region for providing nutrition, education and health care to needy children, free of cost.

"It is a huge honour to be part of this special occasion. I see lots of school kids. I was naughty in school. These kids are so disciplined. My parents were concerned about me, and put me in cricket. There is enough encouragement to channelise energy in the right direction. My focus was to play for India," said Tendulkar, addressing the fans before the start of the match.

Over the years, Tendulkar has inspired millions around the world. He was keen to put the right thoughts in the young minds.

"I did well, and I failed also. There were ups and downs. Sport taught me to get up and fight. Compete in a fair way. When challenged, don't try to find the short cuts," said Tendulkar.

He drove home the point for everyone. "We need to be a healthy and fit nation. We are the diabetic capital of the world. Pick any sport of your choice and engage yourself. You need not become a professional athlete. You can be a fit doctor, or a fit engineer, a fitter version of yourself," Tendulkar said.

He had wholehearted praise for Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai for his vision and humanitarian work, especially in having world class hospitals, providing free treatment to those in need.

"We are here to contribute whatever we can," said Tendulkar.

He gave cricket kits to a few kids as part of the drive to provide 1000 children sporting equipment to keep them engaged in sports.

"Together we are here for others. There is no greater satisfaction than to contribute in whatever way possible to support such efforts, as they are doing amazing work with education, nutrition and health care," said Tendulkar, who captained one of the teams.

The match was memorable with Irfan Pathan hitting the winning six for One World, off the bowling of his brother Yusuf Pathan.

Sunil Gavaskar summed up beautifully by appreciating, "the camaraderie and the spirit in which the match was played. The final ball of the match, one brother hit the bowling of another brother. It was One World, One Family," said Gavaskar before announcing the individual prizes for Darren Maddi, Chaminda Vas, Md. Kaif and Alviro Petersen.

Thanking all the cricketers for finding time and joining hands, Madhusudan Sai had special words for the one Gavaskar introduced as, "the one and only Sachin Tendulkar".

"Sunil Gavaskar did everything to organise the match. Sachin Tendulkar said *Guruvar* (Thursday). He selected the date and came here. Hundred plus countries are participating. So many greats, best in their field are joining hands. In a family, it is not about the survival of the fittest. It is about the survival of the weakest. When families get together, it is celebration. The joy of playing sport is important," said Madhusudan Sai.

While the cricketers came together for a day, Gavaskar has been promoting the cause around the world in a quiet way.

"My memory of Sunil Gavaskar's 10,000 runs in Tests is still fresh. People were celebrating and distributing sweets, bursting fire crackers. Sunil, he talks to people wherever he may be. Makes people aware of the initiatives.

"He has helped get millions of dollars' support for the cause. That is the side so dear to me. He is a citizen of the world, inspires so many people," said Madhusudan Sai.

Despite all the commendable work being done, the driving force for such a mammoth task was particularly emphatic about providing children with nutrition in the morning.

"Children wait for midday meals. The first meal is important. We give breakfast to millions of children so that they have the energy to educate themselves. It is hard to study on empty stomachs. Their last meal would have been the previous day. There is a huge loss of human capital if we don't nurture the children well. We need to support children physically, mentally and emotionally. It is the responsibility of every citizen", he said.

It may be hard to imagine the magnitude of work and support being extended. Yet, the soft spoken guru drove home the point, "if your thoughts are good, the whole Universe joins you. Where there is a will, there is a way," he said.

Yuvraj Singh, who captained one of the teams, and jokingly complained that Sachin Tendulkar had kept all the younger players in his side, was happy to be present for the cause.

"We are all here for a good cause. Free nutrition, education and medical care. We run the Yuvi Foundation. We know the challenges. Heard about it, and happy to be part of it and contribute," he said.

"Wonderful to be part of the initiative. India has developed in excellence. Happy to come back and play, and give back to society. We are grateful to do it. It is very important. Am in love with the incredible India," said Danny Morrison.

Venkatesh Prasad, ever so fit, was happy to be back among the greats of the game.

"Sadguru Madhusudan Sai doing a great job. So many initiatives in 33 countries. Amazing phenomenon. Great to be part of this," said Prasad.

Recalling Nelson Mandela's message and the friendship between India and South Africa, Mkhaya Ntini expressed gratitude to India for "bringing everyone together through the IPL". He added that it felt "great" to be part of such a noble exercise.

There were interesting tips for the youngsters.

"Run every morning. Do the push ups, sit ups etc.," said Morrison, while Yuvraj said that he was happy to be "walking and playing golf".

Prasad was candid.

"As you grow old, you need discipline. Eat the right kind of food. Minimise eating. I take only two meals a day," said Prasad. "We are all here from different parts of the world, different cultures, different beliefs, different faith. We are one human race. Learn to live as one family. I am grateful for being given the opportunity to organise the match. The players responded great. One phone call, or one email was all it required to get these players here," said Gavaskar.

There was a vibrant dance performance to start the match, and there was a full fledged Sai Orchestra enthralling the packed Premamrutham auditorium before the presentation ceremony.

"Sports and music have universal language. On a given day, you may not be the best. Your opponent may be better. You may be aiming for the sky, as individuals and as teams. On a given day, the other person, or team, may be a little better. We respect, show admiration for the performances of each other as opponents. We learn that, in life, one cannot always win. We accept the shortcomings. Next time you can win," said Gavaskar.

Some of the other cricketers were Harbhajan Singh, Muthiah Muralidharan, Monty Panesar, R.P. Singh, Upul Tharanga, Romesh Kaluwitharna, Parthiv Patel, Naman Ojha, Ashoke Dinda and Ajantha Mendis.

It was indeed a star parade of cricketers, on a special day to celebrate the G20 theme that everyone present at the venue, that is expected to turn into a sports hub, would remember fondly.

"Love each other. Serve each other. Do not hurt each other. G20 motto is our mission. The message needs to be told over and over again. We are a cricket loving nation. Cricket is a religion. Cricketers are Gods. Youngsters will learn easily from them," said Madhusudan Sai.

No task is impossible, if people get together and put their heart and soul into executing it.

"Who knows, who gets inspired!," said Madhusudan Sai, happy to have made Sathya Sai Grama an abode for Tendulkar and company.

G.R. Viswanath, along with captains Yuvraj and Tendulkar.

THE GIST

- The match was memorable with Irfan Pathan hitting the winning six for One World, off the bowling of his brother Yusuf Pathan
- Gavaskar, the driving force of the event, was particularly emphatic about providing children with nutrition in the morning
- Harbhajan, Muralidharan, Panesar, R.P. Singh, Tharanga, Kaluwitharna, Parthiv Patel, Ojha, Dinda and Mendis were among the stars that showed up

Saffron hue envelops many parts of city for temple consecration

Celebrations began in residential complexes early in the morning with chants and special pujas; screens were installed to telecast rituals from Ayodhya, and many put up pandals to distribute *panaka* and *kosambari* in the afternoon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A whole day of celebrations marked the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya in many parts of Bengaluru. Several streets, residential complexes, and commercial establishments were decorated with saffron flags and posters of Lord Ram while huge screens were installed at many places for live screening of the rituals from Ayodhya.

Like during Rama Navami, many put up pandals to distribute *panaka* and *kosambari* during the event in the afternoon. As per the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at many residences and temples, lamps were lit in the evening.

Subhanshu, a real estate agent who partook in one of the screenings in Koramangala, said the screening helped people like him witness the consecration with other devotees. PVR Cinemas conducted special screenings in select cities across the country. Although it was initially planned in Bengaluru too, it was later dropped due to technical reasons, a representative said.

Most temples and mutts began special pooja early in the morning while also arranging for live streaming. Some outfits in south Bengaluru had also rented Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses to visit multiple temples in the first half of the day. Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya had also organised special poojas, screening and other programmes in the constituency. Interestingly, many Congress leaders had also organised special events in the city.

Apartment complexes

The celebrations began in many residential complexes in the early hours of the morning with chants of religious hymns and special poojas. Puravankara Atmosphere on Thanisandra Main Road had a live streaming of the inauguration in the community hall.

"We sang bhajans in the evening along with a full-day event. We also had a show related to Ram Mandir performed by the children of the society," said Manjunath Patil, a resident organiser.

Similarly, in many other complexes, food donation drives, cultural programmes, processions and elaborate rituals were organised. An apartment in Jalahalli had also asked the residents to be clad in colours like red, orange and yellow to go with the theme of the celebrations.

Popular restaurants in the city, including Rameshwaram Cafe and Paakashala, organised the distribution of *panaka* and *kosambari*, while some others distributed sweets to everyone who visited. At the famous Vidyarthi Bhavan in Gandhi Bazaar, along with a special pooja, all the staff members had donned saffron shawls inscribed with Jai Shri Ram.

Children, and even adults, clad in costumes of Lord Rama, Sita and Hanuman and taking out a rally was a common sight on the streets. Some small businesses had also decided to down their shutters until the inauguration ceremony was over. A special deepotsava (lighting of lamps) was organised on Malleswaram 8th cross, the popular shopping street.

Several autorickshaws and private vehicles sported saffron flags featuring the portrait of Lord Ram on their vehicles.

Constitution's Preamble

In contrast, there were also those who chose not to join the celebrations. Several social activists from the city shared the Preamble of the Constitution on their social media profiles. There were also some who, instead of the saffron flag, chose to hoist the Tricolour on buildings and houses.

Some schools declare holiday; many hold special screenings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Although the State government had not declared a public holiday, some schools in Bengaluru declared a holiday on Monday on account of the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Several others organised live screening of the ceremony in schools.

"Many schools, according to their capacities had organised live screening of the ceremony from Ayodhya. At some schools, students voluntarily dressed up as Lord Ram and Sita. The classes continued as usual and there was regular attendance," said Shashikumar D., general secretary, Karnataka Associated Management of Schools (KAMS).

Chanting of religious hymns and 'Jai Shri Ram', cultural activities like storytelling competitions and harikathe sessions were observed in many schools while some schools had asked students to wear traditional attire.

> While I appreciate that children are introduced to cultural elements and arts like harikathe, I was a tad uncomfortable with the school doing something like this for a temple inauguration, even though it was a historic moment.
>
> **CHAITRA H.A.,**
> Parent from Uttarahalli

Imposition on children

Some parents and educationists opined that this was an imposition on students.

"While I appreciate that children are introduced to cultural elements and arts like harikathe, I was a tad uncomfortable with the school doing something like this for a temple inauguration, even though it was a historic moment. Schools should be a neutral location and it would be right to only celebrate important festivals like Ganesh Chaturti and Christmas," said Chaitra H.A., a parent from Uttarahalli.

"Children from different religious faiths and practices are studying in schools. The school management should not promote or practise any religion, including minority institutions. Imposing a politically driven religious programme and violating the administrative and academic norms of the State Education Act under which these institutions are governed is a gross violation of the law. Forcing children to watch a particular religious programme is violation of child's personal liberty and faith," said Niranjanaradhya V.P, development educationist.

Not just schools, even in some colleges, decorative rangolis and special pujas were conducted on account of consecration of the temple.

For the people: Food being distributed to people in Bengaluru on the day. Popular restaurants in the city organised the distribution of *panaka* and *kosambari*, while some others distributed sweets. K. MURALI KUMAR

Savouring the occasion: Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and his wife Channamma, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy, along with Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, at the event in Ayodhya. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Out for the day: Devotees taking out a rally at Rajarajeshwarinagar to celebrate the Ram temple consecration ceremony at Ayodhya, on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Dressed to thrill: Devotees showed up as Lord Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman at a rally around the CBD areas on Monday. Such rallies were a common sight on the roads of Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Pious followers: Devotees celebrating at Mahalakshmi Layout. Most temples and mutts began special pujas early in the morning, while also arranging for live streaming. SUDHAKARA JAIN

CM opens Ram temple in Mahadevapura

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday opened a Ram temple at Mahadevapura in the city. Along with the temple, a 33-foot Hanuman idol was unveiled by the Chief Minister.

The Chief Minister said: "The Sitarama Lakshmana temple built by the Hirandahalli Srirama Temple Trust will be an important temple in Bengaluru." He also participated in a Maha Kumbhabhisheka event.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "Lord Rama belongs to everyone, and it is sad the ruling BJP led by Prime Minister Narendr Modi is claiming credit for Hinduism in this country. In my life, I never brought religion into politics, and I am working in a party that believes in secularism."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the inauguration of a Ram temple at Mahadevapura on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Even as more than a dozen States declared a holiday on Monday, the Karnataka government did not. "I am also inaugurating a temple and I think there is no need for any holiday today," he said.

The Opposition BJP lashed out at the Congress government for not declaring a holiday and sought to label Siddaramaiah-led government as an "anti-Hindu" ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

Taking to X (formerly Twitter) later, the Chief Minister said, "Mahatma Gandhi sang Raghupathi Raghava bhajan and died saying Hey Ram. Congress worships the Rama that Mahatma Gandhi talked about, not what BJP projects."

He further said, "I have learnt the value of keeping promises from Rama, social equality from Bhima [B.R. Ambedkar] and walking the talk from Basava."

BJP terms consecration a sacred occasion of the unification of Hindus; continues attack on govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP on Monday termed the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya as a "sacred occasion of the unification of Hindus."

State president B.Y. Vijayendra told pressperson in Bengaluru that "the dream of crores of devotees of Lord Rama had finally come true".

Links with Ayodhya

The consecration was a matter of pride, particularly for the people of Karnataka as the State had links with Ayodhya, he maintained.

"Karnataka houses the birthplace of Hanuman, who is a great devotee of Lord Rama. In addition, the rock from which the Rama idol was sculpted as well as the sculptor are from Karnataka," he said.

Continues attack

The BJP also continued its attack at the Congress government for not declaring a holiday on Monday.

"The entire country is immersed in the religious fervour as people are celebrating the occasion on their own. The Congress has declined to grant a holiday as it could not tolerate the festive mood," alleged Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok.

He told reporters in Bengaluru that those who fail to revere Rama "will meet a similar fate that befell Ravana."

Take part in pujas

Meanwhile, prominent leaders of the BJP participated in special pujas organised at different temples in the State.

They also watched the live telecast of the Ayodhya ceremony on giant screens set up at the temples. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa took part in the festivities at Anjaneya temple in Banaswadi, while Mr. Vijayendra as well as former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai took part in Ramataraka Mahayaga at the Rani Abbakka playground in Mahalaxmi Layout.

Similarly, Mr. Ashok took part in similar ceremonies at Maruthi Mandira temple in Vijayanagar while another former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda took part in ceremonies at Maruthi temple in Dollars' Colony.

Pratap Simmha turned away from foundation-laying ceremony for Ram temple

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Mysuru MP Pratap Simmha was turned away from the foundation-laying ceremony for construction of a Ram temple in Gujjegowdanapura near Mysuru from where the stone for carving the idol at Ayodhya had been mined.

On Monday, when the MP turned up in the village on the outskirts of Mysuru to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony, village leaders blocked his entry and asked him to leave.

Locals accuse BJP MP of being anti-Dalit and of fomenting trouble among various groups

The locals accused the BJP MP of being anti-Dalit and fomenting trouble among various groups.

Though JD(S) leaders, including former Ministers G.T. Deve Gowda and S.R. Mahesh, besides MLC C.N. Manje Gowda tried to reason with the locals, they were adamant against the BJP MP's participation in the function.

The locals, including Dalit leaders, accused Mr. Simmha of displaying an anti-Dalit stance during the celebration of Mahisha Dasara.

They said they are also admirers of Sri Ram and were constructing a temple out of reverence for him while opposing Mr. Simmha's participation in the event, as the latter is known to sow seeds of differences among different groups.

Mr. Simmha, who left the venue, later told reporters that he was denied entry into the village by a former taluk panchayat member of the Congress party, and a group of Mahisha followers.

He reiterated his opposition to Mahisha's followers and accused Congress supporters of shouting slogans against his entry into the village.

He blamed Congress supporters for the incident and said the party was resorting to such mischief as it was aware that they can't defeat him in the constituency.

Recently, Mr. Deve Gowda had announced that a Rama temple will be built at the place in Gujjegowdanapura from where the black stone used for sculpting the Ram Lalla idol at Ayodhya had been mined.

The foundation ceremony for the temple, to be built with donation by the public, was scheduled on Monday to coincide with the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Mysuru MP Pratap Simmha and former Minister G.T. Deve Gowda at Gujjegowdanapura, near Mysuru, on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

Jammu CSIR lab finds cannabis compound that has antibiotic effects

CSIR-IIIM Jammu researchers have found a compound, THCBD, to have potent antibiotic effects against against *Staphylococcus aureus*, a bacteria responsible for the second most number of deaths due to anti-microbial resistance, whereby microbes stop responding to medicines, worldwide

Hirra Azmat
SRINAGAR

Cannabis being grown in controlled conditions in CSIR-IIIM Jammu. HIRRA AZMAT

Cannabis has the potential to make a dent in India's fight against the escalating threat of antibiotic resistance.

Scientists at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, have found that phytocannabinoids, a class of compounds found in the cannabis plant, possess some hitherto unexplored antibiotic properties.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major health concern worldwide. It refers to when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to medicines used to treat them.

According to Sanghapal D. Sawant, a senior principal scientist at the CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, bacteria have developed certain sophisticated 'shields' over many decades to resist the effects of antibiotic medications.

These include the formation of biofilms - thin sheets of bacterial colonies that are more resistant to antibiotics than when separated - and cellular mechanisms called efflux pumps that flush drugs out from cells.

The resulting AMR increases the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.

What is India's AMR burden?

According to one estimate, India reported 2.97 lakh deaths in 2019 that could be attributed to AMR and 10.42 lakh others that could be associated with AMR.

Reports have also flagged the overuse of antibiotics in India, their misuse in animal husbandry, and poor waste disposal for engendering AMR and potentially rendering India the "AMR capital of the world".

For these reasons, medical researchers are keen to tamp down AMR and find new drugs that fight AMR pathogens.

In the new study, published in the journal *ACS Infectious Diseases*, IIIM researchers tested the antibacterial properties of tetrahydrocannabidiol (THCBD), a semisynthetic phytocannabinoid, against *Staphylococcus aureus*, the bacteria responsible for the second most number of deaths due to AMR worldwide.

Need for 'alternative solutions'

Antibiotics are chemical compounds isolated from one microorganism and used to kill another. They have saved millions of lives since their discovery but are falling short against AMR bacteria.

"*S. aureus* includes a strain known as MRSA, for methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*, resistant to the last line of antibiotics called methicillin," Parvinder Pal Singh, principal scientist at IIIM researcher and the study's corresponding author, said. "While numerous antibiotics exist for *S. aureus*, the emergence of the MRSA strain necessitates alternative solutions."

The study revealed THCBD obtained from cannabis could fight MRSA. "We tested this molecule on eight to ten different resistant strains of *S. aureus*, indicating its potential through a distinct mechanism, and offering a promising avenue for further investigation."

How is THCBD made?

Cannabinoids are a class of compounds found in the cannabis plant. The prefix 'phyto' in phytocannabinoid means it comes from a plant. Cannabinoids bind to receptors in the bodies of animals to produce a variety of neurological effects.

The researchers extracted cannabidiol from a cannabis plant and made it react with hydrogen, using palladium as a catalyst. This process yielded a mixture of molecules with the same composition and order of atoms but different structures. One of them was THCBD.

What were THCBD's effects?

Then the researchers tested THCBD against bacterial cultures in the lab. The minimum quantity found to be efficacious against a strain of Gram-positive *S. aureus* used commonly in AMR research was found to be 0.25 µg/ml, which the researchers called "potent".

They found THCBD "demonstrated strong effectiveness" against efflux pump overexpression and MRSA strains.

They also wrote THCBD "significantly reduced" the number of viable microbial cells of *S. aureus* skin infections in mice.

Finally, they found that the compound either complemented or was indifferent to the effects of other common antibiotics like mupirocin, penicillin G, and ciprofloxacin, meaning they could be used together.

"While we have identified a promising candidate, the journey to transforming it into a viable drug involves overcoming additional hurdles," Dr Singh said. "The establishment of a comprehensive safety profile is a crucial step that remains to be seen. Moving forward, our focus will include addressing these issues to develop an improved and safer molecule for potential drug applications."

Is THCBD well-studied?

Nonetheless, Showkat Rashid, a senior scientist at the Medicinal Chemistry Division of IIIM, called the study "very exciting" and "thought-provoking".

"On one hand, it is well aligned towards the development of new therapeutics against AMR and on the other, it brings the less explored but highly potent phytocannabinoids into the fold" of AMR research.

The main reason it wasn't in the fold already? THCBD comes from cannabis, which is notorious for its intoxicating properties. As a result it hasn't been easy to collaborate on phytocannabinoid research with other institutes.

Dr. Sawant said research related to cannabis comes up against legal constraints and the need to adhere to specific regulations when studying this plant. For example, Section 20 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 restricts the use of cannabis and doesn't make exceptions for research. "The pioneering cannabis research project aims to catalyse policy transition at a national level by advocating for a unified national policy for cannabis research," said Zabeer Ahmed, director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu.

"By highlighting the anti-bacterial nature of cannabis, the project will go a long way towards circumventing the taboo around it, and transform it into a valuable resource."

What next for THCBD?

Pankaj Singh Cham, lead author of the study, said the group is "eager to explore collaborations to speed up our progress."

"Establishing a framework and transportation agreement is important. Currently, many universities lack approval to conduct research on the plant, and efforts are underway to secure government authorisation," he added.

"The study recently published by Dr Singh's research group ... has presented a unique set of molecules that could be a game-changer in tackling AMR-related problems," Dr Sawant said. "It is found to have the ability to be a good preclinical candidate, which needs further fine-tuning as far as its drug likeness is concerned."

He added that addressing the solubility challenge of THCBD could be a "viable strategy", in addition to conducting a comprehensive safety profile assessment, to pave the way for its use as a drug.

What is the solubility challenge?

Solubility is an important consideration for a drug. For example, many antibiotics are administered orally. Before their active ingredients can be absorbed at a specific site in the body, the drug will need to dissolve in an aqueous solution. If it doesn't dissolve properly, the body won't be able to absorb it as intended.

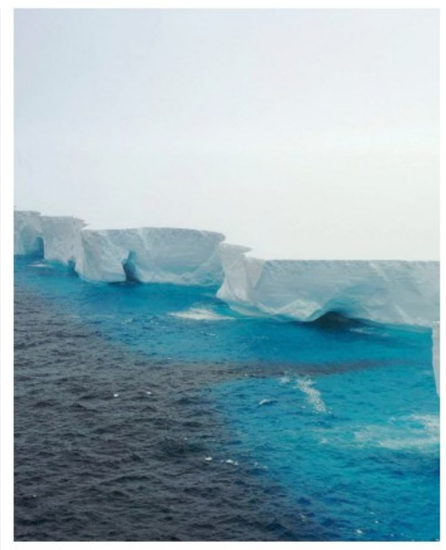
Among other things, solubility is influenced by the properties of the solvent. For example, a molecule can be too hydrophilic (water-loving) or lipophilic (fat-loving), Dr Singh explained. In a biological system, the cytoplasm - which fills the inside of a cell - is a gelatinous liquid and the cell's wall is primarily composed of lipids.

A drug molecule in this milieu should be neither too hydrophilic nor too lipophilic but in between. THCBD "leans slightly towards lipophilicity", according to Dr Singh. Achieving this "drug-like" balance is crucial for it to be appropriately soluble.

"In our upcoming efforts, we aim to enhance these properties," he said.

Finally, the researchers' work on cannabis will "yield significant contributions to the healthcare system," Dr Ahmed added, "but will also directly benefit J&K by establishment of related industries that will create a sustainable demand for jobs."

(Hirra Azmat is a freelance journalist based in Jammu & Kashmir.)



The world's largest iceberg, named A23a, seen in Antarctica on January 14. AFP

World's biggest iceberg battered by waves as it heads north

Agence France-Presse

It was impossible to see through the snow and fog on the Antarctic seas but expedition leader Ian Strachan knew his ship was approaching a true behemoth: the world's biggest iceberg lay somewhere ahead.

"Then the clouds lifted and we could see this expansive – almost abstract – white line that extended each way across the horizon," he said.

As the ship got closer during its visit on Sunday, huge gaping crevasses and beautiful blue arches sculpted into the

The iceberg named A23a is nearly more than twice the size of Greater London. After decades stuck to the Antarctic ocean floor, it is now heading north on what could be its final journey

edge of the iceberg came into focus.

Waves up to four metres high "smashed" and "battered" its wall, breaking off small chunks and collapsing some arches, Dr. Strachan said.

The tooth-shaped iceberg named A23a is nearly 4,000 sq. km across, making it more than twice the size of Greater London.

After three decades stuck to the Antarctic ocean floor, A23a is now heading north on what could be its final journey.

It contains an estimated one trillion tonnes of freshwater that is likely to melt off into the ocean along the way.

The iceberg, which is up to 400 metres thick in places, is currently drifting between Elephant Island and the South Orkney islands.

Dr. Strachan was speaking to *AFP* as his ship, run by the expeditions firm EYOS, was wrapping up a private tour of the Antarctic Peninsula.

It had been planning to go to South Georgia island but due to a bird flu outbreak there, it visited A23a instead.

It was not the first ship to witness the majesty of the iceberg.

A23a first broke off the Antarctic coast in 1986, making it the world's oldest iceberg as well as its largest.

But it quickly became stuck to the ocean floor, where it languished for decades.

Andrew Fleming of the British Antarctic Survey said in 2020 he saw satellite images suggesting it was "wobbling".

Then late last year, A23a broke free from its icy shackles and started venturing north.

Whether or not this was caused by climate change – winter Antarctic sea ice reached its lowest level on record last year – remains an open question.

Dr. Fleming emphasised these icebergs are a natural process, adding that one or two big ones break off every year.

But he emphasised such icebergs are "part of a huge system that is changing dramatically".

Since breaking free, A23a has followed roughly the same path as previous massive icebergs, A68 and A76, moving past the east side of the Antarctica Peninsula through the Weddell Sea.

As the iceberg is "ejected out into the Southern Ocean", warmer waters and bigger waves will start to break it up, Dr. Fleming added.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The P v. NP problem

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1
The P v. NP problem asks whether all problems whose solutions can be verified in some time can also be solved in a comparable length of time. What is this length of time called for the purpose of this problem?

QUESTION 2
There is another length of time called _____ ____. Whereas the answer to Q1 denotes a length that depends on the size S of the input problem raised to some power (e.g. S2), the answer to Q2 is a length proportional to an integer raised to the input size (e.g. 2S). As S increases, 2S will increase faster than S2. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3
Name the Colorado-based private foundation that offers a million dollars as cash prize each to the solutions of seven unsolved problems – one of which is the P v. NP problem.

QUESTION 4
The solution to the P v. NP problem has significant consequences for cryptography. For example, the ___ algorithm to encrypt information takes advantage of the fact that it is very difficult to identify the prime number factors of a very large number within a certain amount of time. Fill in the blank.

Answers to January 18 quiz:
1. Temperature at which all solids start to glow a dim red
Ans: Draper point
2. Temperature at which a substance spontaneously catches fire
Ans: Kindling temperature
3. Entity as a result of which at 3.6 trillion K, objects double in mass –
Ans: Special theory of relativity
4. Element whose fusion succeeds neon fusion because of its stability –
Ans: Oxygen
5. Temperature above which hadronic matter boils –
Ans: Hagedorn temperature
Visual: **Wolf-Rayet**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Pranatha M. Prabhakar | Shamim Mondal | Binu Daniel

Visual: This American mathematician wrote in 1955 to the U.S. National Security Agency that he believed solving a sufficiently complicated problem would consume a lot more time than verifying the solution. Name him. ECONOMICFORUM (CC BY-SA 3.0)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

2 workers die in accident

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

In an industrial accident, two workers of Prasanna Pre Processing Private Limited in the Humnabad Industrial Area in Bidar were killed on the factory premises late on Sunday. They were later identified as Indrajeet, 23, from Salayya Fatak Village at Bahoriband Tehsil in Katni, Madhya Pradesh, and Mohammad Shadab, 22, from Waddankera (now at Wanjary) near Humnabad in Bidar.

The incident occurred when the workers were unloading chemical waste at a godown on the factory premises at around 8.30 p.m. It is learnt that the victims became unconscious and fell on the ground after getting intoxicated by inhalation of severe toxic fumes. Though immediately rushed to a government hospital in Humnabad, they were declared brought dead.

As per information provided by Bidar DC Govinda Reddy, the company is involved in storing and processing chemical waste collected from different plants. A preliminary assessment by the Inspector of Factories and Boilers and the Karnataka Pollution Control Board officer indicated that fumes and smell from hazardous chemical waste as the cause of death.

Mr. Reddy, however, added that the exact cause of death can be ascertained only after a thorough investigation of the incident by officers from the Factories and Boilers and Pollution Control Board.

Mr. Reddy also made it clear that there has been no leakage of hazardous fumes and gases.

"The discharge and spread of fumes and gases are localised and limited to the factory limits only. People need not panic," he said and added that the factory will remained closed until further orders.

KSRTC plans to give Peenya terminal a new lease of life

Corporation has decided to lease out the bus stand to be used as a shopping complex, a convention centre, or a hospital

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The corporation first started services from the terminal in 2014 by shifting 140-odd schedules from Majestic. VINAY B.S.

The Basaveshwara bus terminal in Peenya, North Bengaluru, has been underutilised for nearly a decade, despite various attempts by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to revive it.

Now, the corporation has decided to lease out the bus stand to be used as a shopping complex, a convention centre, or a hospital.

The KSRTC invested ₹40 crore to build the bus terminal. The corporation first started services from the terminal in 2014 by shifting 140-odd schedules from Majestic. However, within a few months, the KSRTC shifted all operations back to Majestic as it had incurred a huge revenue loss.

A KSRTC official said: "87,000 square feet of the bus terminal will be leased to outsiders to be used as a shopping complex, a commercial complex, a convention centre or a hospital."

Over the past few years, the corporation has made multiple efforts to revitalise the terminal, including considering it as a potential bus depot for electric buses. Unfortunately, none of these initiatives have shown any significant progress.

"Following its inauguration, the corporation had relocated 140 services from Majestic to the terminal, serving routes to Davangere, Shivamogga, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, and various destinations in North Karnataka. However, it incurred huge operational losses within a few months, leading to the relocation of services back to Majestic. Despite several attempts over the years, these endeavours have consistently lacked public patronage," another official said.

To increase the footfall, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) too pitched in by running buses from or through the terminal to different locations in the city. However, this initiative also garnered a tepid response.

Air India launches country's first Airbus A350-900 flight

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Air India launched its maiden scheduled commercial flight of the Airbus A350-900 from Bengaluru to Mumbai on Monday. The airline said that it is also the first aircraft in the new bold Air India livery.

According to the company, Flight AI 589 departed on time from Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport bound for Mumbai, carrying a near-capacity load of passengers who were eagerly anticipating the opportunity to experience the revamped Air India.

The aircraft was on static display at the recent Wings India Global Aviation Summit in Hyderabad, where the public got a first glimpse of the IFE and distinct inflight amenities that will form part of the experience once the aircraft begins international operations.

AI 589 will operate every day of the week barring Tuesdays, departing Bengaluru at 7.05 a.m. and landing in Mumbai at 8.50 a.m.

Initially, the aircraft will be deployed on domestic routes for crew familiarisation and regulatory compliance purposes. During this period, passengers from Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai will have the opportunity to experience the state-of-the-art technology of the A350. The aircraft will be later deployed for long-haul flights to international destinations, strengthening Air India's growing wide-body fleet, comprising its own and recently leased aircraft.

The A350 is part of the 470 new aircraft that Air India has ordered less than a year ago.

Air India's A350-900 aircraft will have a three-class cabin configuration with 316 seats – 28 private Business suites with full-flat beds, 24 Premium Economy seats with extra legroom and other amenities, and 264 spacious Economy seats.

APPOINTMENT

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office,
254-260, Avvai Shanmugam Salai,
Royapettah, Chennai-600014

ENGAGEMENT OF
CONSULTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL BANKING DEPARTMENT (OVERSEAS)
ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

Mode of application	Offline application as per the prescribed format uploaded in career page of Banks' website **www.indianbank.in**
Last date for receipt of application	**05.02.2024**
For details please visit career page of **www.indianbank.in** for full details	

Place: Chennai Dated: 23.01.2024 **Chief General Manager (CDO & CLO)**

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited
REGD. OFFICE : 57, V.E. ROAD, THOOTHUKUDI - 628 002
CIN : L65110TN1921PLC001908

TMB Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd
Be a step ahead in life

Building a brighter future, together.

Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter / Nine Months ended 31st December 2023

₹ in Crores

Particulars	Quarter Ended 31st Dec 2023	Quarter Ended 31st Dec 2022
CASA	13,865	12,851
DEPOSITS	46,799	43,440
ADVANCES	38,386	34,802
TOTAL BUSINESS	85,185	78,242
INTEREST INCOME	1,229	1,012
NET PROFIT	284	280
NET WORTH	7,668	6,741
GROSS NPA %	1.69	1.70

₹ in Crores

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2023 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 31.12.2022 (Unaudited)	Nine Months Ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	Nine Months Ended 31.12.2022 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	1387.13	1365.22	1172.88	4075.24	3456.14	4710.15
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax,Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	367.83	341.83	371.88	1050.57	1046.41	1393.64
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	367.83	341.83	371.88	1050.57	1046.41	1393.64
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	284.23	273.51	279.70	818.97	776.21	1029.26
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
6.	Equity Share Capital	158.35	158.35	158.35	158.35	158.35	158.35
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous Year	-	-	-	-	-	6769.99
8.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)						
	a) Basic: (in ₹)	17.95	17.27	17.66	51.72	52.13	68.06
	b) Diluted: (in ₹)	17.95	17.27	17.66	51.72	52.13	68.06

NOTE:
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Nine Months Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Nine Months Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange(s) (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and on the Bank's Website (www.tmb.in)
2. Information relating to Total comprehensive income and other comprehensive income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to banks.

Place : Thoothukudi
Date : 22.01.2024

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
S. Krishnan
Managing Director & CEO

Our products offers to customers
TMB Royal Savings Account
TMB Premium Savings Account
TMB SUPER FLEXI Current Account
TMB msme CREDIT Loan Schemes for MSMEs
TMB GST CREDIT
TMB Home Loan
and many more....

#ForwardTogether Follow us on /tmbankltd

Keep Yourself Safe against Online Fraud : Bank or its employees never ask you to share your sensitive information like Credit / Debit / ATM, Card Number, Expiry Date, CVV, PIN / OTP etc. (Report to your Branch immediately on receiving such calls from any unknown resources)

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The farmers who committed suicide in Marathwada in 2023

1,088 Of these suicides in the eight districts of Marathwada in Maharashtra, Beed had the highest, with 269 such deaths. The figure has gone up by 65 compared to 2022. PTI

The amount sought by the UN to help migrating people

7.9 in $ billion. The International Organization for Migration is launching its first "global appeal," seeking to help people on the move and ensure smoother pathways to migration. AP

The number of people trapped after a landslide in China

47 At least two people were killed and over 40 others went missing after a landslide struck southwest China's mountainous Yunnan province. Over 500 residents were evacuated from the landslide-hit area. PTI

Afghans who returned from Pakistan, as per the IOM

5 in lakh. Many Afghans fled Pakistan between September 15, 2023 and January 13, 2024, since Islamabad ordered undocumented migrants to leave or face arrest. Most returned before the November 1 exit deadline. AFP

Women voters outnumber men in Manipur

67,028 more women. The final electoral roll shows that 20.26 lakh electors have registered. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

On equal access to benefits for all SCs

Why has a high-level committee been formed post Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise to the Madiga community in Telangana? What has the community been demanding since 1994? Can Parliament sub-categorise castes within the Scheduled Castes?

EXPLAINER

Abhinay Lakshman

The story so far:
The Union government has formed a high-level committee of secretaries, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, to evaluate and work out a method for the equitable distribution of benefits, schemes and initiatives to the most backward communities among the over 1,200 Scheduled Castes (SCs) across the country, that have been crowded out by relatively forward and dominant ones.

Why this committee and why now?
This committee's formation is the result of a meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired in December, 2023, weeks after promising to look into the demand for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes as raised by the Madiga community in Telangana in the run-up to the Assembly elections there last year. The Madiga community constitutes at least 50% of the SC population in Telangana, where SCs comprise around 15% of the total population (2011 Census). For decades, the Madiga community has said that despite their numbers, they are crowded out of government benefits meant for SCs, including reservation, by the Mala community – another SC – which is dominant and relatively forward.

Like the Madiga community, SC communities in several States have said that they have been routinely crowded out of benefits meant for SCs by dominant and relatively forward communities in their category. Commissions formed by State and Union governments have also supported the argument that several SC communities often miss out on benefits. As a result, multiple States like Punjab, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu have tried to bring in reservation laws at the State level in a bid to sub-categorise SCs and decide on a separate quantum of reservation for these subcategories within the umbrella of SCs– all of which are held up in courts.

Equitable access: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi leader Manda Krishna Madiga at the Parade Grounds in Hyderabad, on November 11, 2023. NAGARA GOPAL

Consequently, this high-level panel of Secretaries has been formed with a strict mandate to look into "other ways of taking care of their grievances". While the committee's formation comes on the heels of the PM's promise to the Madiga community, sources have told *The Hindu* that its "scope is larger than just one community in one State as it will be looking at ways to address similar issues faced by similarly-placed SC communities across the country".

Meanwhile, a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is expected to soon start hearing the matter of whether sub-categorisation of SCs and STs is at all permissible.

What will the panel do?
The Committee will consist of Secretaries from the Home Ministry, the Law Ministry, the Tribal Affairs Ministry, the Social Justice Ministry and the Department of Personnel and Training in addition to the Cabinet Secretary. With the question of breaking up the SC quota off the table, the panel will look into ways in which benefits of other government schemes and initiatives can be focused towards these SC communities. This includes ways to design special initiatives for communities that need it and focusing existing programmes and schemes towards them to ensure a more even distribution of benefits. While it has not been given a specific deadline, the committee has been asked to present its findings at the earliest.

The panel will have to figure out on what basis SC communities are going to be shortlisted for special attention, find out the extent to which special initiatives need to be designed for each of them, and then find a way to deliver them. While sources have indicated that the panel has been instructed not to veer off into the question of breaking up the SC quota, nothing prevents it from forming an opinion on this matter for the government's consideration, if necessary.

Have there been attempts in the past?
The demand of the Madigas was raised as early as 1994, which led to the Union government seeking legal options to do the same in 2005. At the time, the erstwhile Attorney General of India had opined that the sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes was possible and that the Constitution could be amended to bring this about. But he had also stressed that this could happen only if there was "unimpeachable evidence to indicate a necessity" for it – suggesting that there needs to be a mechanism to gather empirical evidence to prove the necessity of sub-categorisation.

At the time, both the National Commissions for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and Scheduled Tribes (NCST) had opposed the move to amend the Constitution, arguing that just setting aside a quota within the quota would not be enough and that making sure existing schemes and benefits reach them on priority basis was more urgent. However, even the NCST and NCSC had in 2005 maintained that nothing in the Constitution's Articles 341 and 342 explicitly prevented Parliament from sub-categorising SCs and STs.

These Articles vest the powers of notifying SC and ST lists with the President of India and of creating the lists with Parliament, with no specific instruction as to whether there can be sub-categorisation within these lists respectively. In fact, the Commissions had gone one step ahead and argued that Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India already provided for States to create special provisions for any backward classes it felt was under-represented.

THE GIST

- The Union government has formed a high-level committee of secretaries to evaluate and work out a method for the equitable distribution of benefits to the most backward communities among the over 1,200 Scheduled Castes.
- The Madiga community constitutes at least 50% of the SC population in Telangana. For decades, the Madiga community has said that despite their numbers, they are crowded out of government benefits meant for SCs, including reservation, by the Mala community — another SC — which is dominant and relatively forward.
- The erstwhile Attorney General of India had opined that the sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes was possible and that the Constitution could be amended to bring this about.

Why was FCRA registration for several NGOs cancelled?

Who oversees the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act? How many NGOs have been affected?

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:
The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 (FCRA) registration of two prominent non-governmental organisations (NGOs) – Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and World Vision India (WVI) have been cancelled this month.

Who monitors the process?
The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) monitors the implementation of the FCRA. The registration of thousands of NGOs was due for renewal in 2020-2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the amendments to the FCRA Act in 2020, many NGOs could not complete the process. The MHA had given a relief up to September 30, 2021 to NGOs whose registration was expiring between September 29, 2020 and September 30, 2021 to apply for a renewal. The MHA has extended the deadline multiple times; the latest date being March 31, 2024.

Through the FCRA, the ministry regulates foreign donations to ensure that such funds do not adversely affect the country's internal security. It is compulsory to register under the Act, first enacted in 1976, if an association, group or NGO intends to receive foreign donations. The 1976 Act was repealed and replaced with a new legislation in 2010. It was further amended in 2020. The registration is valid for five years, after which the NGO has to apply for a renewal. It is mandatory for all such NGOs to register under the FCRA, initially valid for five years that can be renewed if it complies with all norms. Registered groups can receive foreign contribution for social, educational, religious, economic and cultural programmes.

How many have lost registration?
Since 2015, the FCRA registration of more than 16,000 NGOs have been cancelled on account of "violation." As on January 22, there were 16,989 FCRA-registered NGOs active in the country. The FCRA registration of nearly 6,000 NGOs had ceased to operate from January 1, 2022 as the MHA either refused to renew their application or the NGOs did not apply.

A 2012 report by the MHA said that there are over 20 lakh registered NGOs in the country and the number of such NGOs registered under FCRA will be less than 2%. "While it is not proper to make sweeping generalisations, it is necessary to note that the NGO sector in India is vulnerable to the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing. Therefore, necessary steps for rigorous enforcement as well as coordination with foreign countries for law enforcement will continue," the report said. In 2023, a record number of 1,111 associations were granted fresh registration. Analysis of the data showed that nearly half of fresh FCRA registrations under the religious category are for Christian NGOs. The MHA informed the Lok Sabha on December 19, 2023 that out of the total 1,615 applications received for registration under FCRA in 2021 and 2022, as many as 722 applications were granted clearance while 225 applications were rejected.

The ministry said that a total of 13,520 associations received ₹55,741.51 crore foreign contribution in the financial years 2019-2020, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Why were CPR and WVI's registrations cancelled?
The MHA alleged that CPR diverted foreign donations to fund "protests and legal battles against developmental projects" and misused funds to "affect India's economic interests." It alleged that the think tank engaged in production of current affairs programmes which violated FCRA norms. CPR had furnished a report on air pollution – "Overview on the Commission for Air Quality Management Act 2021, policy challenges for the new government etc." The MHA said publishing of current affairs programme using foreign funds is prohibited under Section 3 of the FCRA.

CPR said that the ministry's decision is incomprehensible and disproportionate, and some of the reasons given challenge the very basis of the functioning of a research institution. "This includes the publication on our website of policy reports emanating from our research being equated with current affairs programming," CPR said. The registration of WVI was cancelled for alleged FCRA violations from 2012-13 to 2020-21. WVI is the recipient of the highest amount of foreign donations among all NGOs registered under the Act in 1986.

THE GIST

- Through the FCRA, the ministry regulates foreign donations to ensure that such funds do not adversely affect the country's internal security. It is compulsory to register under the Act, if an association, group or NGO intends to receive foreign donations.
- The FCRA registration of two prominent non-governmental organisations (NGOs) — Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and World Vision India (WVI) have been cancelled this month.
- The MHA alleged that CPR diverted foreign donations to fund "protests and legal battles against developmental projects". It alleged that the think tank engaged in production of current affairs programmes which violated FCRA norms.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-1/23-24/5017-19 Date: 22.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works:

(1) Bid Enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/Mys/GCB/289/Call-6 Dt: 20.01.2024 for **"Providing New Bus coupler MCVCB on Bank-1 along with additional 2 Nos. of 11kV PCVCB to feeders on Bank-2 at 66/11kV S/s Santhebachalli" on PTK.**

(2) Bid Enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/Mys/GCB/630 Dt: 20.01.2024 for **"Shifting & extention of 66kV Bus at 66/11kV Srirangapattana sub-station in Srirangapattana Taluk, Mandya District" on TTK.**

(3) Bid Enquiry no: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/Mys/R&M/631 Dt: 20.01.2024 for **"Combined package for replacement of faulty 66kV ABB make breaker of 66kV K.Honnalagere-KIADB Somnahalli O/G line by providing new 66kV Breaker at 66/11kV S/s K.Honnalagere and replacement of defective 66kV M/s ABB make breaker of 66kV Talagawadi-K.K.Doddi-Maddur I/C line and defective 66kV M/s Alstom make breaker of 66kV Maddur-KIADB Somanahalli O/G line by providing new 66kV Breakers at 66/11kV S/s Madduru which comes under Malavalli Nodal Centre in Hebbani TL&SS Division" on TTK.**

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "**e procurement kptcl**" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **24.01.2024.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007. Ph: 0821-2455018.

SOUTH INDIAN Bank

CIN: L65191KL1929PLC001017

Regional Office: SIB Arcade, #61, Wheeler Road, Cox Town, Bangalore – 560 005. Tel./ Fax No: +91 80-25479091 / 92
E-mail: **ro1010@sib.co.in**.
Website: **www.southindianbank.com**

[See rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of The South Indian Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice dated 28.05.2021 u/s. 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers, **(1) Sri Vincent Joseph**, S/o. Late P V Joseph, and **(2) Smt. Seena Vincent,** W/o. Vincent Joseph, both of them residing at No. B2-1204, Golden Palms Apartment, Hennur Main Road, Near Kristu Jayanti College, K Narayanapura, Bangalore – 560 077. (Both of them also at : Flat No. A1-1004, 10th Floor, Block A, Tower A 1, Golden Palms Apartment, Hennur Main Road, Near Kristu Jayanti College, K Narayanapura, Bangalore – 560 077) to repay the total amount of **Rs.16,93,342.08** mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.16,06,900.56 (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred and fifty six paise only)** as outstanding in the Dropline OD limit (0009081000001563) and **Rs.86,441.52 (Rupees Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Forty One and fifty two paise only)** as outstanding in the FITL Covid Moratorium limit (0009656000000029), both amounts as on **27.05.2021** with further interest, penal interest and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Physical possession of properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security and Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this the **22nd day of January, 2024.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of The South Indian Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.24,37,636.56** as outstanding in the Dropline OD limit (0009081000001563) and FITL Covid Moratorium limit (0009656000000029) amounts as on **22.01.2024**, with further interest, penal interest and costs thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Item No. 1 : All that part and parcel of land measuring East to West : 30 feet, and North to South : 40 feet, totally admeasuring 1200 sq.ft. along with usufructs and improvements thereon, bearing Site No. 59, V.P. Khatha No. 59, formed in Sy. No. 117, formed in Layout known as "CHRIST RESIDENCY", duly converted for residential purpose, situated at Sonnur village, Lakkur Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District owned by Sri Vincent Joseph vide Sale Deed No.1029/2014-15 dated 14.05.2014 of SRO Malur and bounded on the North by : Site No. 58, East by : Layout Road, South by : Site No.60 and West by : Site No. 40.

Item No. 2 : All that part and parcel of land measuring East to West: 40 feet, and North to South: 30 feet, totally admeasuring 1200 sq.ft. along with usufructs and improvements thereon, bearing Site No. 30, Khatha No. 175/115/1, formed in Sy. No. 115/1 situated at Jagadenahalli village, Lakkur Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District owned by Sri Vincent Joseph vide Sale Deed No. 1564/2011-12 dated 22.07.2011 of SRO Malur and bounded on the North by : Site No. 29, East by : Road, South by : Site No. 31 and West by : Site No. 55.

Date : 22.01.2024 **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **The South Indian Bank Ltd.**

FORM NO. CAA. 2

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH

COMPANY APPLICATION (CAA) NO. 11/BB/ 2023

In the Matter of Sections 230 To 232 And Other Applicable Provisions of the Companies Act, 2013

SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT

Between

INDUSAGE TECHAPP PRIVATE LIMITED
("Demerged Company/Transferor Company")
AND
KWICKEDGE TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
("Resulting Company/ Transferee Company")
AND
THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS

BETWEEN:

1.INDUSAGE TECHAPP PRIVATE LIMITED
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
1st Floor
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150.
Bengaluru – 560 102
...APPLICANT NO.1

2.KWICKEDGE TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
1st Floor
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150.
Bengaluru – 560 103
...APPLICANT NO.2

AND

NIL **.....RESPONDENT**

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF THE MEETING OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF THE APPLICANTS

Notice is hereby given that by an Order dated 24-08-2023 as modified by the Order dated 20-12-2023 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Orders"), the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, has directed a meeting to be held and convened of the Equity Shareholders of Indusage Techapp Private Limited and Kwickedge Technology Private Limited and Unsecured Creditors of Indusage Techapp Private Limited for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Scheme of Arrangement proposed to be made between the Applicants and its respective Shareholders and Creditors.

INDUSAGE TECHAPP PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 1)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 1 will be held on 26th February, 2024 at 10.00 am at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 at which time the Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Applicant No. 1 will be held on 26th February, 2024 at 11.00 am at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 at which time the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

KWICKEDGE TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 2)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 2 will be held on 26th February, 2024 at 12.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 at which time the Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

The Tribunal has appointed Mr. Srinandan K, Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Karthick Varadarajan, PCS as Scrutinizer for the above meetings. The Scheme, if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

Copies of the Scheme of Arrangement and of the explanatory statement under Section 230 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") can be obtained free of charge at the registered office of Applicants or at the office of its Advocates given below. Persons entitled to attend and vote at the meeting of the Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors, respectively may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the registered office of the respective Applicants not later than 48 hours before the meetings. Forms of Proxy can also be obtained at the registered office of the Applicants.

Dated:23-01-2024
Place : Bengaluru

Advocate for the Applicants

UDAY SHANKAR ASSOCIATES

Advocates & Legal Counsels

Fortune Chambers, 1st Floor, No. 8, Lalbagh Road

Richmond Circle, Bengaluru - 560 027, Ph: +080 4141 0007/0006

THE HINDU GROUP

G SQUARE GROUP — YOUR PLOT. YOUR HOME. YOUR WAY. Presents

THE HINDU LIT FEST 2024

THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA

In Association with NITTE | CHRIST

LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

1. Fill in the blank. "_____ The Epic and The Nation" by G N Devy answers questions pertaining to the epic and why it is held in high regard by Indians even in the 21st century.
2. Name the city from which Jessica, whom Aslam from Abdullah Khan's "A Man from Motihari" falls in love with.
3. T N Ninan's "The Turn of the Tortoise" addresses which of the following facets in its essence?

Visit: newsth.live/LitfestQuiz
Read the Terms & Conditions.

Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz.
Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers.

Answer to previous quiz:
1. CONVERSATIONS WITH AURANGZEB
2. ITHACA
3. POWER RANGERS

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED

OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

OMC | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES — Mining Happiness

NOTICE No. 1499/OMC/2024 Date: 22.01.2024

The Computer Based Test (CBT) for the post of Jr. Nurse & Electrician-III, scheduled from 12.30 PM to 2.30 PM on 22.01.2024 is hereby postponed due to some technical issues. The CBT exam for the above posts shall be rescheduled shortly to a later date, which shall be intimated to the concerned candidates through e-mail & SMS on their registered e-mail ID and mobile number. The same shall also be published in newspapers as well as OMCL's website (**www.omcltd.in**). The inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.

However, CBT schedules for all other posts remain unaltered.

All the candidates are advised to visit OMCL's website regularly for important instructions/ notifications relating to the CBT.

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER (P&A)

CAD- : OIPR-30005/11/0245/2324

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI.

Ph.: 08472 -220196 midnglb@rediffmail.com.

IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-3/2023-24/ 2947 DATED : 18-01-2024

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-3&4) :-

1) Detail of work: THE EXEUCTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER 4702 MAJOR WORKS, L.I.S. FOR THE YEAR 2023-24 & P.M.K.S.Y. FOR THE YEAR 2022-23, 2) Amount of Estimate : **Max. Rs. 321,35,986.21, Min. Rs. 50,24,794.10**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class-3 to Class-I, 4) Details of Tender application Amount and EMD Amount: Tender Fee As Per KPPP Portal E.M.D. Max. Rs. 4,82,100.00, Min. Rs. 50,250.00, 5) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: **25-01-2024 Upto 11.00 Hours,** 6) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **30-01-2024 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 7) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **31-01-2024 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid; **01-02-2024 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 9) Addl. information: Executive Engineer, M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi 10) Address of E-Portal : **(https:// KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/704/KSMC&A/2023-24

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD, KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI

Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi-585105, Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/AMRUT2/2023-24/1253, 1254 Date : 19-01-2024

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER :-

1) Name and description of work : **KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/Hbd_Ctg_Hkd/AMRUT2/2023-24/1253 Date : 19-01-2024** Providing combined water supply scheme to Humnabad, Chitguappa and Hallikhed towns in Bidar District Under AMRUT 2.0 including O&M for a Period of 5 Years (including 1 Year Defects Liability Period) through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Mode (Lumpsum) - No Variation **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2023-24 / WS / WORK_INDENT123),** Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) : **12480.32** (Excluding GST)**,** Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs) : 1,47,26,000/-

1) Name and description of work : **KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WS/KUD-KOT-HUV-HBHALLI-KAM/AMRUT2/2023-24/1254 Date : 19-01-2024** Providing combined water supply scheme to Kudligi, Kotturu, Huvinahadagali, Hagaribommnahalli & Kamalapur towns under AMRUT 2.0 including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode". (lumpsum tender – No variation)". **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2023-24 / WS / WORK_INDENT124),** Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakh) : **17950.18 (Excluding GST),** Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount (Rs) : 2,11,81,000/-, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Eligible Contractors, 4) Period of completion including monsoon in months : 24 Months (Twenty Four) (Every work), 5) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting : **06-02-2024 at 12:30 Hours,** 6) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **19-02-2024 Up to 17:30 Hours,** 7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender : **21-02-2024 After 11:00 Hours,** 8) Addl. information: Chief Engineer Office, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Opp. Mini Vidhan Soudha, Aiwan Shahi Road, Kalaburagi – 585102. Tel : 08472-220817, Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 9) Address of E-portail: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/696/KSMC&A/2023-24

Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur

(Govt. Autonomous Institution)
Hyderabad Road, Raichur -584102 Phone /Fax-08532-238488/89
Web. www. rims-raichur.com Email info@rims-raichur.com

No.RIMS/SUP/TEND/2023-24 Dated: 20.01.2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Various Chemicals, Reagents & Other Items to Pathology & Microbiology Dept., & RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur under two cover bid system through KPPP Portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No	Particulars	Tender No	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs
1	Supply of Various Chemicals, Reagents & Other Items to RIMS Teaching Hospital, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/ LAB/112/2023-24	106.34
2	Supply of Various Chemicals & Reagents to Pathology & Microbiology Dept., RIMS, Raichur	RIMS/SUP/TEND/ CHEM /113/2023-24	99.77

1) Tender document may be downloaded from KPPP Portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 22.01.2024, 2) Last Date for Queries on or before 30.01.2024 @ 05.00 PM, 3) Pre bid meeting on 31.01.2024 at 11.30 A.M 4) Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before 05.02.2024 upto 5.00 PM & 5) Technical bid will be opened on 07.02.2024 at 11.30 A.M.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೆ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ / ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. 2) ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಯಾವುದೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೊರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

Further information may be obtained from above office and from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Director
Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences Raichur

DIP/RCR/409/KSMC&A/Job No.406/2023-24

FORM NO. CAA. 2

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH

COMPANY APPLICATION (CAA) NO. 10/BB/ 2023

In the Matter of Sections 230 To 232 And Other Applicable Provisions of the Companies Act, 2013

COMPOSITE SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT

Between

HIVELOOP TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
("Demerged /Transferor Company No. 1")
AND
GRANARY WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED
("Demerged /Transferor Company No. 2")
AND
GRANTRAIL WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED
("Demerged /Transferor Company No. 3")
AND
STAPEL WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED
("Demerged /Transferor Company No. 4)
AND
LEADMARK WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED
("Demerged /Transferor Company No. 5")
AND
STACKTRAIL CASH AND CARRY PRIVATE LIMITED
("Demerged /Transferor Company No. 6")
AND
HIVELOOP E-COMMERCE PRIVATE LIMITED
(formerly known as Hiveloop Logistics Private Limited)
("Resulting Company/ Transferee Company")
AND
THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS

BETWEEN:

1.HIVELOOP TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150
Bengaluru – 560 103.
...APPLICANT NO.1

2. GRANARY WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150`
Bengaluru – 560 103.
...APPLICANT NO.2

3. GRANTRAIL WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150.
Bengaluru – 560 103.
...APPLICANT NO.3

4. STAPEL WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150.
Bengaluru – 560 103.
...APPLICANT NO.4

5. LEADMARK WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150.
Bengaluru – 560 103.
...APPLICANT NO.5

6. STACKTRAIL CASH AND CARRY PRIVATE LTD.
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150.
Bengaluru – 560 103.
...APPLICANT NO.6

7. HIVELOOP E-COMMERCE PRIVATE LIMITED
(Formerly known as Hiveloop Logistics Private Limited)
A Company incorporated under Companies Act, 2013
Having its registered office at
Khatha No.458/660/ 641/3/1A
Harlur Road Marathahalli
Mahadevapura Zone, Ward 150.
Bengaluru – 560 103.
...APPLICANT NO.7

AND

NIL **.....RESPONDENT**

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF THE MEETING OF EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS, SECURED AND UNSECURED CREDITORS OF THE APPLICANTS

Notice is hereby given that by an Order dated 24-08-2023 as modified by the Order dated 20-12-2023 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Orders"), the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench, has directed a meeting to be held and convened of the Equity Shareholders and Unsecured Creditors of Applicant Nos. 1 to 7 and Secured Creditors of Applicant Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving with or without modification, the Composite Scheme of Arrangement proposed to be made between the Applicants and its respective Shareholders and Creditors as follows:

HIVELOOP TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 1)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Class A Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 1 will be held on 27th February, 2024 at 4.00 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 at which time the Class A Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Class B Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 1 will be held on 27th February, 2024 at 5.00 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 at which time the Class B Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Secured Creditors of Applicant No. 1 will be held on 28th February, 2024 at 10.00 am at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 at which time the Secured Creditors are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Applicant No. 1 will be held on 28th February, 2024 at 11.30 am at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru - 560 095 at which time the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

The Tribunal has appointed Mr. Manik B.T, Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Thirupal Gorige, PCS as Scrutinizer for the above said meetings. The Scheme, if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

GRANARY WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 2)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 2 will be held on 29th February, 2024 at 10.00 am at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Secured Creditors of Applicant No. 2 will be held on 29th February, 2024 at 11.00 am at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Secured Creditors are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Applicant No. 2 will be held on 29th February, 2024 at 12.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

The Tribunal has appointed Ms. Sameeksha Patil, Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Vivek Hegde, PCS as Scrutinizer of the above said meetings. The Scheme, if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

GRANTRAIL WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 3)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 3 will be held on 27th February, 2024 at 11.30 am at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Secured Creditors of Applicant No. 3 will be held on 27th February, 2024 at 12.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Secured Creditors are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Applicant No. 3 will be held on 27th February, 2024 at 2.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

The Tribunal has appointed Mr. S.K. Ravi, Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Deepak P. Jain, PCS as Scrutinizer of the above said meetings. The Scheme, if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

STAPEL WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 4)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 4 will be held on 26th February, 2024 at 4.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Applicant No. 4 will be held on 27th February, 2024 at 10.00 am at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

The Tribunal has appointed Mr. S.K Ravi, Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Deepak P. Jain, PCS as Scrutinizer of the above said meetings. The Scheme, if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

LEADMARK WHOLESALE PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 5)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 5 will be held on 26th February, 2024 at 2.00 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Applicant No. 5 will be held on 26th February, 2024 at 3.00 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

The Tribunal has appointed Mr. S.K Ravi, Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Deepak P. Jain, PCS as Scrutinizer of the above said meetings. The Scheme, if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

STACKTRAIL CASH AND CARRY PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 6)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 6 will be held on 28th February, 2024 at 1.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Secured Creditors of Applicant No. 6 will be held on 28th February, 2024 at 2.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Secured Creditors are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Applicant No. 6 will be held on 28th February, 2024 at 4.00 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

The Tribunal has appointed Mr. Manik B.T. Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Thirupal Gorige, PCS as Scrutinizer of the above said meetings. The Scheme, if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

HIVELOOP E-COMMERCE PRIVATE LIMITED (APPLICANT NO. 7)
(formerly known as Hiveloop Logistics Private Limited)

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Equity Shareholders of Applicant No. 7 will be held on 29th February, 2024 at 2.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Equity Shareholders are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Secured Creditors of Applicant No. 7 will be held on 29th February, 2024 at 3.30 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Secured Creditors are requested to attend.

In pursuance of the said Orders, and as directed therein, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Unsecured Creditors of Applicant No. 7 will be held on 29th February, 2024 at 5.00 pm at Silicrest Hotel, No. 624, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095 at which time the Unsecured Creditors are requested to attend.

The Tribunal has appointed Ms. Sameeksha Patil, Advocate as the Chairperson and Mr. Vivek Hegde, PCS as Scrutinizer of the above said meetings. The Scheme, if approved by the meeting, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Tribunal.

Copies of the Composite Scheme of Arrangement and of the explanatory statement under Section 230 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") can be obtained free of charge at the registered offices of the respective Applicants or at the office of its Advocates given below. Persons entitled to attend and vote at the meetings may vote in person or by proxy, provided that all proxies in the prescribed form are deposited at the registered offices of the respective Applicants. Forms of Proxy can also be obtained at the registered office of the respective Applicants.

Dated:23-01-2024
Place : Bengaluru

Advocate for the Applicants

UDAY SHANKAR ASSOCIATES

Advocates & Legal Counsels

Fortune Chambers, 1st Floor, No. 8, Lalbagh Road, Richmond Circle, Bengaluru- 560 027

Ph: +080 4141 0007/0006

ABSTRACT

Daily toil: Tribal women farmers prepare the field before planting vegetable saplings in Nabarangapur district's Raighar area in south Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Intersectionality of gender and caste in women's participation in the labour force

This paper is a comprehensive exploration of gender and caste dynamics in India's labour market that delves deep into the challenges faced by women in the workplace, particularly those from the lower castes

Rebecca Rose Varghese

Kadam, Ashay and Sarkar, Kingshuk, 'The Role of Gender and Caste in Accessing Livelihood Opportunities in India', Vol 58, Issue no. 51, *Economic and Political Weekly,* December 23, 2023

Over the past two decades, there has been a significant decline in female Labour Force Participation (LFP), in line with an overall reduction in labour force engagement. Structural rigidities in India's manufacturing and service sectors have restricted employment opportunities in the informal sector, where a substantial 90% of the workforce is involved. When compounded with gender bias and caste discrimination, women often find themselves situated at the bottom of the labour pyramid, which limits their employment choices primarily to the agricultural or the informal sector.

While many papers have discussed and traced the decline in female LFP in the country, through the lens of caste, the results of the studies have been conflicting. Many scholars have discussed the importance of education for women to access employment. It is women from higher castes, due to their economic condition, that have historically had a higher chance to access education, translating into better employment. There have also been studies that reveal how women from lower castes opted for public sector jobs, due to reservation. On the other hand, many scholars have also pointed out how women from the upper castes have the lowest work participation rates, with female LFP increasing as we go down the caste hierarchy. This has been attributed to economic instability among the lower castes, which pushes women into the labour market.

The methodology

Ashay Kadam and Kingshuk Sarkar extend these arguments to look at how women's participation in the rural informal sector changes according to their caste positions. Further, the paper explores whether women from lower castes have higher participation in informal activities in depressed labour market conditions which offer limited social mobility to women in any given scenario.

Data from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 is utilised to scrutinise and analyse the labour force participation at the tehsil level in selected States including Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

The paper attempts to understand what influences women's involvement in revenue-generating non-farm economic activities within the informal sector at the tehsil level. It considers variables such as the interplay between high income and the percentage of female-headed households, and low income and the proportion of lower caste households to do so. To elaborate, the authors, through an in-depth analysis, elucidate that women's LFP in the rural informal economy tends to rise under two primary conditions in the seven States. Firstly, when there is a higher number of lower caste households, and secondly, when there is a high prevalence of female-headed households. However, it is important to note a caveat in the latter scenario: the increased participation occurs predominantly when the female-headed households are economically disadvantaged.

This is because higher economic stability within households decreases the likelihood of women, even in female-headed families, to seek employment.

The caste and gender bias

In terms of gender, there are many barriers that women face in attempting to contribute to the economic activities of society. Societal expectations from women to primarily focus on housework and care work and manage the needs of a household, mostly prevent them from participating in the workforce. On the other side, women also face legal and economic constraints in their pursuit of employment. For instance, there are laws in many companies that prevent women from working on the night shift.

In the non-farm, informal sector that this paper focuses on, such laws do not hinder women from participating in the workforce. The authors explain that the lack of patriarchal figures in female-headed households and the need for revenue help women attain employment, even if it is in the informal sector. Despite strong social and patriarchal constraints that discriminate against women even in the informal economy, from the labour market perspective, participation of women in the informal sector is more desirable than the lack of any employment or unpaid domestic work.

In the case of lower-caste households, higher female LFP in the informal sector is explained through economic constraints and limitations in social mobility. Historically, people from the lower castes have been expected to engage in manual and domestic work irrespective of their gender. While men were expected to do heavy manual labour, women helped with domestic work in higher caste households. Thus, lower-caste women's participation in the workforce is explained through the caste structure itself.

While there is a clear caste pattern when it comes to the employment of women, where women from upper castes have lower work participation rates compared to women from the lower castes, education also plays an important role in determining the nature of work accessed by women. Lower-caste women often face economic disadvantages, resulting in a higher share of them being illiterate. Limited educational opportunities confine them to jobs in the informal sector. However, if a woman from this background manages to pursue education beyond school, affirmative action policies from the state enable entry into the formal economy, particularly in the public sector.

Conversely, educated women from higher castes, who challenge societal norms, have greater prospects in the formal sector.

In any case, irrespective of whether it is the informal or formal economy, women's participation in the labour force is beneficial for them and the larger society. Studies show that a woman's ability to create revenue increases her capacity to make decisions for her and her family.

Moreover, education and employment are directly associated with a delayed age of marriage and the age of the first childbirth among women. Studies have also shown that when the mother is earning, the chances of a child's schooling are higher. Further, when women have control over resources, they are less susceptible to domestic violence and enjoy more mobility.

Thus, the authors explain how despite obstacles rooted in caste and gender bias, women's participation in the workforce has a favourable influence on the socio-economic fabric of society. It not only liberates women from societal and economic constraints but also contributes to shaping a more educated and enlightened future. The paper is a comprehensive exploration of gender and caste dynamics in India's labour market that delves deep into the challenges faced by women, particularly from lower castes.

These insights contribute to the previous studies that have helped in creating more inclusive policies, addressing gender and caste disparities in the Indian workforce.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Several readers would like to know whether the use of 'shall' in the following sentence found in a Supreme Court Judgement is correct: 'The Bench also expressed its' hope and trust that our expectations shall not be belied and the assurances which we have indicated shall be helpful'."

" 'Shall' used with the second and third person implies 'obligation', 'compulsion', 'command'.

You shall go.

He shall go.

'You shall go' means 'You are ordered to go'. The use of 'shall' in this sense with the second and third person is rather archaic. However, it is not considered archaic in legal language as legal language itself is somewhat archaic. Dr. Johnson said that 'it is one of the definitions of the civil law that definitions are hazardous'. In legal language, 'shall' in the second and third person is common. All the same, it is odd to have 'hope' and 'expect' followed by 'shall'.

I hope he will come.

'I hope he shall come' sounds odd. Incidentally, 'hope' is not followed by 'may'. 'I hope he will come' and not 'I hope he may come'. 'Perhaps' and 'may' don't go together. 'Perhaps he will come' or 'He may come'. Don't say 'Perhaps he may come'. 'Perhaps' itself means 'it may be'. I hope my remarks on 'shall' will not invite contempt of court.'"

"Ms. C. S. Subha wants to know which of the following is correct: (a) look forward to hearing from you (b) looking forward to hear from you (c) looking forward to hearing from you."

"(a) and (c) are correct. 'Look forward to' is followed by a noun or a gerund. You look forward to what? You look forward to something.

I look forward to the party.

I look forward to meeting him.

I am looking forward to his visit."

"Mr. V. Sankaran wants to know whether it is in bad taste to say that X and Y are uterine brothers/sisters."

" 'Uterine' means 'born of the same mother but not same father'. This is a technical word. This is the adjective of 'uterus', a technical term for 'womb'. These two are matter-of-fact expressions and there is nothing good or bad about them. But it would be in poor taste to ask one of the uterine brothers: 'Where is your uterine brother?'"

"Mr. S. Vanamali wants to know the difference between 'funeral' and 'Funereal'"

" 'Funeral' means 'a ceremony, usually religious, of burying or burning a dead person'. It is also used as an adjective. Funeral pyre, funeral procession, funeral oration. 'Funereal' means 'appropriate to a funeral, heavy, gloomy, dismal, dark'.

It was a wedding all right. But there was no joy. There was a funereal atmosphere.

The 'u' in 'funereal' is pronounced like the 'u' in 'funeral'. The first 'e' and the 'ea' are pronounced like the 'ea' in 'near', 'fear'. In 'funeral', the stress is on the first syllable. In 'funereal', the stress is on the second syllable."

Published in The Hindu on October 23, 1990.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Salvador Dali, one of the most acclaimed 20th century artists on his 35th death anniversary

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Dali never got his diploma from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of San Fernando in Madrid for what controversial reason?

QUESTION 2

Which of Dali's celebrated works, completed in 1931, is set on the seashore of northernmost Catalonia at Cape Creus, with Mount Pani casting a shadow upon the beach, and has watches looking like melted cheese?

QUESTION 3

Which fellow Spaniard, an artistic legend in his own right, is said to have given Dali a loan of $500 needed to make his first trip to New York in 1934?

QUESTION 4

Dali is remembered by Alfred Hitchcock fans for his work on a dream sequence in which of the British filmmaker's works?

QUESTION 5

Name his Russian spouse, 10 years his senior, who was also his muse.

QUESTION 6

One of the bigger paintings by Dali has the Venus De Milo, a Dalmatian, and a swarm of flies. Name this work that measures 157 × 118 inches.

QUESTION 7

For which iconic Indian brand did Dali design limited-edition ashtrays and was gifted an elephant calf as remuneration?

Visual question:
Identify this painting, with a tongue twister of a name, created as a homage to Nobel Laureates Watson and Crick.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The name of the plaintiff in the *Roe versus Wade* case. **Ans: Norma McCorvey**

2. The plaintiff wanted an abortion in this U.S. State. **Ans: Texas**

3. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right to have an abortion again in this 1992 landmark decision. **Ans: *Planned Parenthood versus Casey***

4. In 2022, the Court overruled the right to abortion in this case. **Ans: *Dobbs versus Jackson Women's Health Organization***

5. The theory that suggests supporters of the legalisation of abortion cause the erosion of their political base. It was coined by this newspaper. **Ans: Roe Effect; *The Wall Street Journal***

Visual. Identify the march and the city in which it is held. **Ans: March for Life; Washington DC**

Early Birds: Aadya| Akshansh Thakur| Aaryaman Thakur|

Word of the day

Orotund:
ostentatiously lofty in style; full and rich (of sound)

Synonyms: bombastic, declamatory, tumid, turgid, large, rotund, round, pear-shaped

Usage: *His orotund voice can be heard from the hall.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/orotundpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɒɹə(ʊ)tʌnd/, /ˈɔː-/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Pain is not always transient, says Nobel Laureate David Julius

At his lecture 'How we sense pain' in the city, the biochemist said, "We need to understand the molecules, the mechanism, the cellular pathways that underlie different forms of chronic pain so we can take a rational mechanistic approach to treat it"

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pain is not always transient and is, in fact, an acute warning system which can stand out with its usefulness as a protective function, and a big challenge in the field is to understand how the switch occurs from chronic to persistent pain. How we can prevent it and how can we ultimately reverse it is the question, David Julius, biochemist, molecular physiologist, and co-recipient of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology, said.

Delivering the TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences, 2024 on the topic "How we sense pain", on Monday, he dwelt on various aspects of pain, and the challenges before researchers.

David Julius in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Dr. Julius said that finding different pain syndromes is another challenge. "How do chronic pain syndromes differ and what are the underlying molecular mechanisms? So we all know, for example, that lower back pain is different from gastrointestinal pain, visceral pain, or arthritis knee pain, or migraine pain, and I think until we understand how they are distinguished mechanically, we will not be able to target them specifically." So, we need to understand the molecules, the mechanism, the cellular pathways that underlie different forms of chronic pain so we can take a rational mechanistic approach to treat it," Dr. Julius said.

Students and delegates attending a lecture by Nobel Laureate David Julius, titled 'How we Sense Pain', during the 2024 TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences, at the JN Tata Auditorium, IISc, in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Dr. Julius also took questions from the audience at the JN Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science.

To a question on why pain or discomfort tends to peak during the evening or night, he replied, "Lots of things happen sort of in the evening for people. I think there is a huge effect of circadian rhythm. My guess, is there is [pain that tends to peak in evening hours]. But I don't know how intensively that has been studied."

The Inspiring Science Award, 2024 for the best published Life Sciences paper by a student from India in the past one year was also presented on the occasion. All eight finalists shortlisted by the jury received an Apple laptop, a medal, and a citation.

The winner, Abhinav Banerjee, Ph.D. student in the Department of Biochemistry, IISc, received a medal, a citation, and a travel fellowship to a conference of their choosing anywhere in the world.

Mr. Banerjee won the award for his paper titled 'Single-molecule analysis of DNA base-stacking energetics using patterned DNA nanostructures'.

INBRIEF

Golf coach dies in accident

A 28-year-old golf coach was killed in an accident in Sumanahalli, north Bengaluru, on Sunday night. The victim, identified as Chandrasekhar from Bidadi, was driving home with a friend, according to the police. However, owing to excessive speed, he lost control over his vehicle and collided with a divider. The police said that his friend, Kiran, is currently receiving treatment at Victoria Hospital.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated January 23, we have civic experts weighing in on whether the Master Plans for Bengaluru have really helped the city grow in an organised manner.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 23, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- On equal access to benefits for all Scheduled Caste communities **bit.ly/subcategoryscs**
- Jammu CSIR lab finds cannabis plant compound has antibiotic effects **bit.ly/csirlabjammu**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:16
RISE 16:13	SET 04:43
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:17
RISE 17:09	SET 05:38
THURSDAY, JAN. 25	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:17
RISE 18:03	SET 06:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	22
Mysuru	32	20
Bengaluru	29	18

Bengaluru Today
31°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2024
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-36 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : **Road works**
3. No. of work : **2 Nos.**
4. Tender Paper Cost : **Rs.10,000.00**
5. Class of Contractor : **A Class / Special Class / Super Class**
6. Available of bid document in the website. : From **10.00 A.M. of 25.01.2024** to **4.30 P.M. of 08.02.2024.**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.08.02.2024 at 4.35 P.M.**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha (I/C).
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-1660 : OIPR-34111/11/0057/2324

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 51 / 2023-24
e-mail : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.245, dt.12.01.2024

1. No. of the work	:- 3 number Road Works & 1 number Bridge Work
2. Estimated cost	:- Rs.389.01 Lakhs to Rs.671.84 Lakhs.
3. Class of Contractor	:- "A" Class & "Special" Class
4. Period of completion	:- 05 (Five) Calendar Months to 07 (Seven) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- From 11.30 Hours of 24.01.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 07.02.2024.
6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:- 16.00 Hours of 07.02.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:- 11.30 Hours on 08.02.2024
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
B-1655: OIPR-34033/11/0071/2324

All India Institute of Medical Sciences Vijaypur, Jammu 184120

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAL GASES SERVICETO AIIMS, VIJAYPUR JAMMU

1. Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for Supply of Medical Gases Services to AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu has been published in CPP Portal, GOI on 19th January, 2024.Vide tender Reference No AIIMS/JMU/NIT/2024/2 and Tender Id No 2024_AIMSJ_742408_2 Bidders/owners interested to provide the services may please download NIT document from CPP Portal, GOI **(https://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app).** or website of AIIMS, Jammu **(https://www.aiimsjammu.edu.in).**

2. Any Bidder/owner who is unable to download the NIT document may collect the same (Hard copy) from office of the Dy. Director (Admin) located at **GMC Doctor's Guest House, Maheshpura Chowk, Jammu-180001 during working Hours (9.30 AM to 5.30 PM).**

Deputy Director (Admin)
AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, IRUDAYA Raj Soundara Raj, S/o D Anthu Raj, R/a No.4, Butchappa Rd, Ejipur, Viveknagar po, B'luru-47 have changed my name to Soundar Raj vide affidavit dt: 18.01.2024 sworn before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju, B'lore.

I, PAUL Leo, S/o Soundar Raj, R/a No.4, Butchappa Rd, Ejipur, Viveknagar po, B'luru-47 have changed my name to Leo Paul S vide affidavit dt: 18.01.2024 sworn before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju, B'lore.

I, VARISH Jain S/o. Anil Jain and Shruthi Jain W/o. Varish Jain, Residing at Flat No. 1222, Tower No. 1, 22nd Floor, Prestige West Wood Apartment, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023, Affirm that my daughter's actual name is Avya Jain and wrongly mentioned in her Aadhar card as Aavya Jain. In future our daughter's name called as Avya Jain for all the Purpose. Affidavit sworn before Notary Prakasha C., Bengaluru - 560079 Reg. No. LAW LCL 212 2020

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 72th ADDL' CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-73)
O.S. NO. 25218/2023
Hg.15.02.2024

Between :
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate Office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mysthree Center, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068, Represented by its Collection Manager and POA Holder Sri Pramodh Gurumallappa
...Plaintiff

AND :
Mr. Wasim K. Mulla
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Mr. Wasim K. Mulla,
S/o Mr. Kasim Mulla, Aged about 38 years, Site No. 08, Second Floor, SJP Layout, Nagondanahalli Colony, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560 066

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of **Rs. 6,14,777/- (Rupees Six Lakh Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Seven Only)** together with interest **@ 24% p.a.,** cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble **72nd** Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge **(CCH - 73)** in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on **15-02-2024** at **11.00 a.m.** failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **10.01.2024**

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT
DEPUTY REGISTRAR,
CITY CIVIL COURT,
MAYOHALL UNIT,
BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates,
No.10, 7th Cross,
Victoria Layout,
Bangalore- 560 047

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that My Client **Sri.Uday Kumar.T.H. Smt.Latha G and Sri.G.Sankirth** are intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from the owners **Sri.A. Murugan Sri.A.Ganesh & Sri.A.Paramashivam** has acquired the property through three different sale deeds i.e., dated 18.05.2015 Doc No.3926/2015-16, 18.08.2015 Doc No.3927/2015-16, 18.08.2015 Doc No.3924/2015-16 from **Sri Chinnapareddy & Sri Venkatesh** represented by their GPA holder **Sri P.R.Alagarswamy** vide GPA dated 15.07.1996 Doc No.1409/1996-97. if any Persons/Bank/Financial institutions having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the Schedule Property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your claims, within **7 days** from the date of Publication of this notice. Failing which, it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my Client will proceed for completion of Sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel Southern Portion, Northern Portion & Middle Portion of the **Site No.14** respectively in all measuring 3,024 Sqft. situated at **Haralukunte Village, Begur, Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.**

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.
No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-2/30/2023-24 Dated: 22-01-2024

E-PROCUREMENT
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, in Two Cover System for Approved Action Plan Works Under Zilla Panchayath Different Head of Account 2023-24. The work details can be obtained from the e-Procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 30-01-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3183/
Adverto/2023-24

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERAMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL, BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

SHORT-TERM AUCTIONS NOTIFICATION

RPCL invites bids for participating in auctions through GoK e-Procurement platform (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) under "Auction" category from reputed bidders for the following Mill Reject Waste Coal Sale process: **(1)** E-auction Notice No.: KPCL/2023-24/AUCTION14. **Auction Title:** Sale of Mill reject waste coal on "As is where is" basis from reject stock Yards at YTPS for a period of one year. Amount put ot Auction: **Rs. 8,43,15,000/-.** EMD: **Rs. 12,64,725/-. (2)** E-auction Notice No.: KPCL/2023-24/AUCTION15. **Auction Title:** Sale of Mill reject waste coal on "As is where is and as & when generated" basis from Silo Points/Mill Bay Area at YTPS for a period of one year. Amount put ot Auction: **Rs. 8,40,00,000/-.** EMD: **Rs. 12,60,000/-.** Last date and time for submitting query: **29.01.2024, 17.30 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer (M-2), RPCL, YTPS, Yermaru-584134. Dist: Raichur. Mobile: +91-9480682547. E-mail: **eechpmytpskpcl@karnataka.gov.in** Website: **https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in**

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE TECHNOLOGIES
(Established through Act No.18 of 2008)
ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA
Ref.No:RGUKT-AP/E-Proc/SA/Re-tenders/ET43-ET44/2024, Dt.23.01.2024

E-PROCUREMENT-RE-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are hereby invited from original manufacturers (OEM)/ authorized representatives of a OEM/wholesale dealers for supply of the student amenities to the students of RGUKT for its four campuses.

Tender-1 (Formal and Sports Shoes and Socks) and Tender-2 (Bed sheet with Pillow cover and Blanket).

Interested bidders can download and submit bids online from **23.01.2024, 11:00 AM** through **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** (AP Portal).

For further details please visit the University website: **www.rgukt.in.**

DIPR 2627PP/CL, Dt.22-01-2024 **Sd/- REGISTRAR, RGUKT**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **(i)Mrs.REBEECA.S** & her daughter **Miss.Angelina Samson.D** and **(ii)Mr.A.PRADEEP KUMAR,** residing at:No.195, 9th Cross, A.V.Road, Chamarajpete, Bengaluru – 560018.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.195 (PID No.46-3-195) and No.195/1 (PID No.46-3-195/1), measuring East to West 30 ft and North to South 65ft, together with a building thereon, situated at 1st Main Road, Chamarajpete, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property of Ramanna
West by : Property of Kalyanibayamma
North by : Property of Mayanna and common passage
South by : 1st Main Road

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara.

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 07/2023-24 **Date : 16-01-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from qualified contractors for the works through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal as per the Standard bid documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl No. 1 : 1) Documents may be downloaded from 24-01-2024, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 07-02-2024 upto 16.00 hours, 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 08-02-2024 (If possible) at 16.30 hours. Tender Processing Fees and EMD as per KPPP Portal.
(Estimate Cost Rs. 900.00 Lakhs).

Sl No. 2 : 1) Documents may be downloaded from 24-01-2024, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 31-01-2024 upto 16.00 hours, 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 01-02-2024 (If possible) at 16.30 hours. Tender Processing Fees and EMD as per KPPP Portal.
(Estimate Cost Rs. 200.00 Lakhs).

For more information contact the above Office during Office Hours.

Note : Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Ramanagara Division,
Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/415/Manipal/2023-24

COFFEE BOARD
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Central Coffee Research Institute,
Coffee Research Station, Balehonnur.
No.RES/CCRI/ GUEST HOUSE / 2023-24/ 1766 dated: 22.01.2024

Notice Inviting tender for Expression of Interest

Expression of Interest, Item rate tenders are invited in two bid systems by Coffee Board for the work of "Supply of Interior furniture requirement for Guest House at Central Coffee Research Institute [CCRI], Balehonnur Chikkmagalur District "on turnkey basis. For further details, visit https://coffeeboard.gov.in . The last date for submission of sealed tenders is 05.02.2024 by 3:00 PM. The date of opening of Technical bids is 05.02.2024 at 4.00 PM.

Sd/-
Director of Research

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕಾಪು
ಈ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ.ಸಂ.: ಪುಸಕಾ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ.–1.0/19/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:20–01–2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕಾಪು ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಸ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ (ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ.–1.0) ಉಳಿತಾಯ ಮೊತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರನ್ವಯ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ Standard tender document KW-4 ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:07–02–2024 ಸಂಜೆ:4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:09–02–2024 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.30ಗಂಟೆ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಮತ್ತು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ www.kauptown.mrc.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.: 1. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ವಿವರ: DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT13137, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 1,14,78,950.00, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) : 1,72,184.00

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾಪು, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

INBRIEF

NIMHANS and Dementia India Alliance sign MoU

To collaborate on advocacy, outreach, training, research work, and support services for dementia care, NIMHANS on Monday entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dementia India Alliance (DIA), a non-profit family carer-centred national organisation. The MoU was signed by NIMHANS director Pratima Murthy and DIA president Radha S. Murthy. The collaboration is aimed at improving the overall quality of life of persons with dementia and their family caregivers through various modalities. According to a release, DIA and NIMHANS will collaborate to promote the cause of dementia through services and activities, including support groups, information dissemination, advocacy, research initiatives, education programs, conferences, and other events.

Odisha police keen to induct Mudhol hound into dog squad

The Odisha Police Department has expressed the desire to include Mudhol hounds into their canine squad. A team of senior officers will visit the Mudhol dog research and breeding centre in Bagalkot district on January 29. The Canine Research and Information Centre (CRIC) of the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal, and Fisheries Sciences University will sign an agreement with the Criminal Investigation Department and sell a few puppies to the team. The team is expected to meet the scientists and procure the puppies at prescribed prices, KVAFSU research director B.V. Shivaprakash said. Centre in charge Sushant Handage said they had supplied around 50 puppies to security and vigilance agencies like the Indian army, air force, Central Industrial Security Force, special protection group, and various State Police Departments, till now.

UCO Empower launched to help MSME entrepreneurs

UCO Bank entered into an MoU with Poornatha and Company to launch UCO Empower, an online training programme for MSME customers in vernacular languages under the bank's CSR activity. UCO Empower is an educational initiative designed to equip MSME entrepreneurs with necessary financial, leadership and managerial expertise for sustainable business development. The course consists of 10 modules which will be delivered in over 10 hours, said a release from the bank. UCO Empower was launched by Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, in the presence of Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State for Finance, and Ashwani Kumar, MD and CEO of UCO Bank, during credit outreach programme.

Lok Sabha polls: State has 5.38 crore voters in revised final electoral rolls

Between the draft and final rolls of 2024, as many as 10,81,110 electors have been added and 6,72,457 deleted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As per the revised final electoral rolls for 2024, published on January 22, Karnataka has 5.38 crore electors, including 2.68 crore women and 4,920 in the others category.

Giving details about the final rolls that were published on Monday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Kumar Meena told mediapersons that the total number of electors has increased by 4.08 lakh since the publication of the draft electoral rolls on October 27, 2023.

The final electoral rolls of 224 Assembly constituencies have been published in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners of all District Electoral Registration officers, Assistant Electoral Roll Registration officers and all polling stations for the information of the public.

"A total of 58,834 polling stations have been identified. During rationalisation, 845 polling stations were added and 293 were merged. Overall, there is a net increase of 552 polling stations compared to 2023 Assembly elections," he said.

During the revision, the names of electors detected under Photo Similar Entries, Demographically Similar Entries, Dead, Shifted, Absentee, have been deleted for cleansing of the electoral rolls. The total number of voters (5.38 crore) published in the final rolls is after these deletions. This number includes 46,501 service electors.

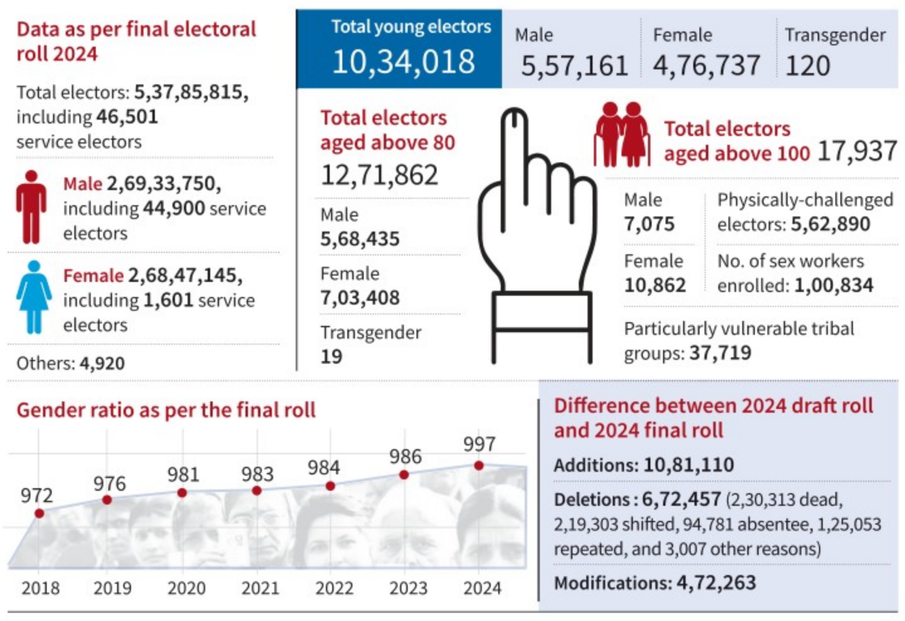
Among the 224 Assembly constituencies, Bengaluru South has the highest number of voters at 7,17,201. Sringeri in Chikkamagaluru district has the least number of voters at 1,67,556.

Mr. Meena said between the draft and final rolls of 2024, as many as 10,81,110 electors have been added and 6,72,457 electors have been deleted. People can use Form 6 for new registration, and Form 8 for addition, correction or deletion of names in the electoral rolls.

Register name

Eligible unregistered electors can still get their names in the electoral rolls till 10 days before the last day of filing nominations. People can submit applications online using the Voters Service Portal (https://voters.eci.gov.in), or the Voter Helpline Mobile App for inclusion of their name in the rolls.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer, with Additional Chief Electoral Officers R. Venkatesh Kumar (left) and M. Kurma Rao (right), at a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR



Eligible prospective electors qualifying on January 4, 2024, July 1, 2024, and October 1, 2024, can also submit their applications in advance.

For any information regarding electoral rolls, Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPICs), and submission of applications, individuals may contact the respective District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Assistant Electoral Registration Officers, and Booth Level Officers.

They can also call the toll-free number 1950 (180042551950).

Pointing out that full EPIC coverage has been achieved, the Chief Electoral Officer said as many as 17,47,518 EPICs have been delivered via speed post to electors' residences by November-end. Another 10,76,506 EPICs have been generated and are currently in the process of being sent to electors.

"Eligible electors who have not got the EPIC cards can re-apply with corrections, and the cards will be generated within a fortnight," he said.

Vulnerable groups

A special drive has been conducted to enroll particularly vulnerable tribal groups in the districts of Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, Mysuru, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi. A total of 37,719 people (of the eligible 38,132) from the tribal groups have been enrolled.

Likewise, of the total 6,18,496 eligible (above 18 years) physically challenged voters, 5,62,831 have been enrolled and marked for facilities that will be provided by the commission on election day.

Deputation of police officer to PCPNDT Task Force sought

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State PCPNDT (Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques) Supervisory Board, which met for the first time under Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on January 18, decided to write to the Home Department to depute an officer of the cadre of Deputy SP or Assistant Commissioner of Police to the State PCPNDT Task Force set up to curb female foeticide. This will be on the lines of a similar system being followed in Tamil Nadu.

In December, the Bengaluru police unearthed a prenatal sex determination racket across Bengaluru, Mandya, and Mysuru districts. They arrested a doctor and his lab technician who allegedly performed around 900 illegal abortions in the last three years.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, the Minister said four women legislators – Roopkala, Nayana Motamma, Latha Mallikarjun, and Umashree – are part of the Supervisory Board. The former three who attended the meeting on Thursday have made suggestions to intensify further measures to curb female foeticide.

He said discussions on enhancing the penal clauses under the PCPNDT Act – from three years imprisonment and ₹10,000 fine to five years and ₹5 lakh – were also held. "As PCPNDT is a Central Act, we will send a proposal to the Centre on enhancing the penalty and jail term" he said. Besides, an external agency will be entrusted to track all pregnancies in the State to check if there are any illegal terminations of pregnancies.

Gender ratio sees further improvement in final electoral roll 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The gender ratio of general electors rose from 991 to 997 while transitioning from the draft rolls to final rolls of 2024

Women voters outnumber men in at least 17 of the 28 parliamentary constituencies in Karnataka, according to the revised final electoral roll 2024 published on Monday.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka, said there has been a constant improvement in the gender ratio that has gone up from 958 (per 1,000 males) in the 2013 Assembly elections to 997 this year. The figure was 960 in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, 963 in 2015, and 972 in the 2018 Assembly elections, 976 in 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 981 in summary revision of 2020, 983 in 2021, 984 in 2022 summary revision, and 986 in the 2023 Assembly elections.

"The gender ratio of general electors increased from 991 to 997 while transitioning from the draft rolls to the final rolls of 2024. Furthermore, the gender ratio of young electors witnessed an increase from 818 to 856 during this period," he explained.

This time, the elector-population (EP) ratio of Karnataka (as per the final roll 2024) is 69.74%, which means of the total projected population (7.71 crore), 69.74% are electors, Mr. Meena said.

EP ratio

"The primary focus was on enhancing the health of the electoral rolls, thereby improving key indicators during the house-to-house survey and revision period. During the following periods, the EP ratio has been consistently maintained," he said.

The number of young electors (18-19 years) has increased from 6,45,491 in the draft rolls published on October 27, 2023, to 10,34,018 in the final rolls, marking a significant rise of 3,88,527 young electors.

The total young electors include 4,76,737 females and 120 transgenders. While the total electors aged above 80 stands at 12,71,862, those aged aged above 100 are 17,937.

Belagavi has the highest number of young electors at 1,02,706, and the highest number of electors aged above 80 at 99,197, while Mysuru has the highest number of electors aged above 100 at 2,004.

Recruitment for PSI posts: Re-exam to be held today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KEA, which is conducting the exam this time, said all measures, including adequate security had been arranged for the smooth conduct of the exam

The re-examination for the recruitment of 545 Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) on Tuesday will be held only in Bengaluru, in a step to prevent malpractices like during the exam held in October 2021. Kalaburagi district had emerged as a key hub of exam malpractices in that exam, following which the results were rejected and a re-exam ordered.

Allegations of irregularities have cast a long shadow on even the re-exams after an audio clip where a police official is heard "assuring a job for money and giving question paper beforehand" went viral. However, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) probing the allegations said State intelligence official Lingaiah, whose voice is in the clip, claimed to have been doing a "sting operation". "Investigations so far have not revealed any question paper leak or exchange of money," an official said

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) that is conducting the exams this time said all measures, including adequate security for the smooth conduct of the exam had been taken.

S. Ramya, executive director of KEA, said in a press release on Monday, that tight security arrangements have been made to prevent any irregularity. Candidates have been instructed to mandatorily follow the dress code. It is prohibited to bring electronic devices and mobile phones. Everyone appearing for the exam will be screened through a metal detector and senior police officers will also visit the examination centres.

Prohibitory orders

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner has clamped prohibitory orders in an area with a 200 metre radius around 117 exam centres in the city on Tuesday. He has also ordered all photocopy shops around these exam centres to be shut from morning 7 a.m. till exams are completed.

The examination will be held from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. and six police personnel, including four armed constables and two women personnel, have been deployed at each examination centre.

A total of 40 police battalions have been deployed on examination duty. As many as 54,000 candidates are likely to attend.

Irregularities: Veerappa Commission submits report to Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Panel prepared the report after a nearly four-month probe

The one-man judicial commission headed by Justice B. Veerappa submitted its report on the Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) recruitment scam, to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday. The commission was set up by the State government.

The commission submitted a 471-page report after probing the scam for about three months and 23 days.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Veerappa said that the commission had analysed 324 documents and recorded statements of 28 witnesses. "As irregularities were found, in the larger interest of society, I have recommended to the government to take certain precautions to avoid this in future," he said. However, he refused to elaborate and said the report was confidential till the government tables it in the legislature.

When the then BJP government was in power, the PSI exam was conducted on October 3, 2021, for recruitment of 545 PSIs. As many as 54,289 candidates attended the exam in 92 centres.

After the results were announced, the allegations of irregularities forced the then BJP government to handover the probe to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The CID arrested 113 people, including 52 candidates.

It also arrested IPS officer Amrit Paul, who was Additional Director General of Police, Police Recruitment Cell. Mr. Paul is presently out on bail.

Businessman found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A businessman who was running a law college allegedly ended his life in Bagalagunte, North Bengaluru, on Sunday, according to the city police.

Ashok Havanur, a 42-year-old resident of Havanur Layout, took his life at his residence. The police said that he ran a law college at Ramamurthy Nagar. "According to his family, he had been avoiding proper communication for the last 15 days. As he had not come out of his room for long on Sunday, the family attempted to open the door and discovered the body," the police said. The police said the motive behind the suicide remains unknown. A case has been registered.

(Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani number 104 for help)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of general public and whom so ever it may concern that my client Mr GopalaKrishna Gowda Poila is intending to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule property here under from Mr. B.S Venkatesha Rao who claim to be the owner of the Schedule Property acquired through the sale deed document dated 29-03-2001 registered as document No. 6289/2000/01, Book No 1, page No 57-63, samputada 2417, dated 07-04-2001 registered in sub registrar Rajajinagar Bangalore Any person or any persons ascertaining any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof and in any manner whatsoever against the Schedule Property based on the documents pertaining to the Schedule Property may lodge their objections and/or claims with undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received there after will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable residential house property bearing Municipal No 180 situated in Ramakrishna Nagar Layout in Sy No 1 and 3 Jarakabande Kaval Village Railway men's HBCS Nandini Layout Yeswanthpura Hobli Bangalore north Taluk presently BBMP ward No 12 ,PID No -12-142-180 with RCC Building consisting of ground floor 2 BHK house and in the First Floor 3 BHK house in land measuring north to south 60 feet and East to West 40 feet Total measuring 2400 square feet with all civic amenities and bounded on:

East by : Site No 181
West by : Site No 179
North by : Road
South by : Site No 206 and 207

A.K. LAW CHAMBERS
ARUN KUMAR.K.N, ADVOCATE
No. 1, 1st Floor, Public Utility Building, M.G.Road, Bangalore 560001
Mob: 9845155737
E mail: arunadvocate3443@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client is desirous of entering into certain transaction in connection with the immovable property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder **("Schedule Property")** with Smt. Lakshmi H Reddy, Smt. Meena Reddy M H and Sri. Vinay Reddy M H all residing at #22, 13th Cross, Near Sharada Mutt, Jayamahal Extension, Bengaluru, Karnataka**("Owners")**. The Owners have represented to our Client that they have inherited the Schedule Property from Late Sri. B Hanumantha Reddy and are the joint and absolute owners of the Schedule Property with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any persons other than the Owners, assenting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or their objection to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objection must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objection and reach us at the address given below within a period of **7 (seven)** days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners have any right, title, interest or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client will be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of converted immovable property admeasuring 111.42 square meters (East to West 12.19 Meters and North to South 09.14 Meters) bearing Site no 1130, situated at Sector I, Hosur Sarjapur Road Layout, Bangalore and bounded as under:

East by : Site No. 1129
West by : Road
North by : 1131
South by : Road

Date : 23-01-2024
Place : Bengaluru

Dechamma M C
Advocate
Faros Legal
206, BM Mystic Greens
27th Main Road, HSR Layout
Bengaluru - 560 102
Mobile : 90087 31480

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

D R Venkatesh
Senior Partner of MSSV & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Died: 22-01-2024
Bereaved by Family, Partners & Staff members.

Will we ever master a proper plan for Bengaluru?

Bengaluru does have a history of Master Plans. But did they really help the city grow in an organised manner? Experts weigh in on the question

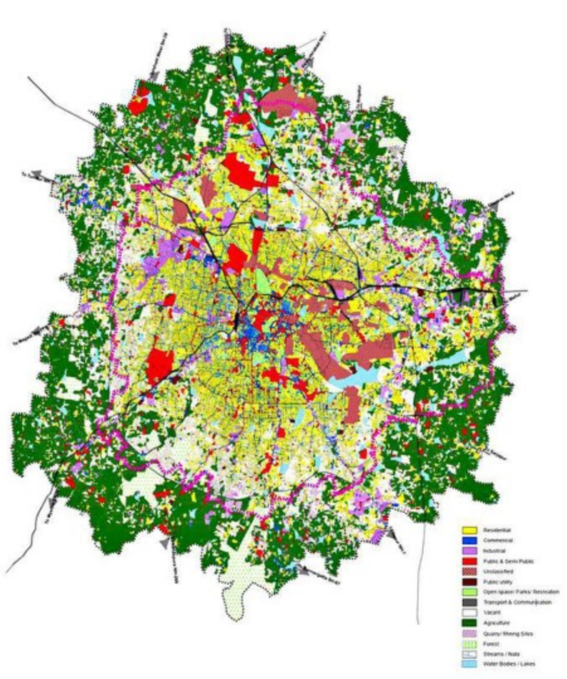
Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

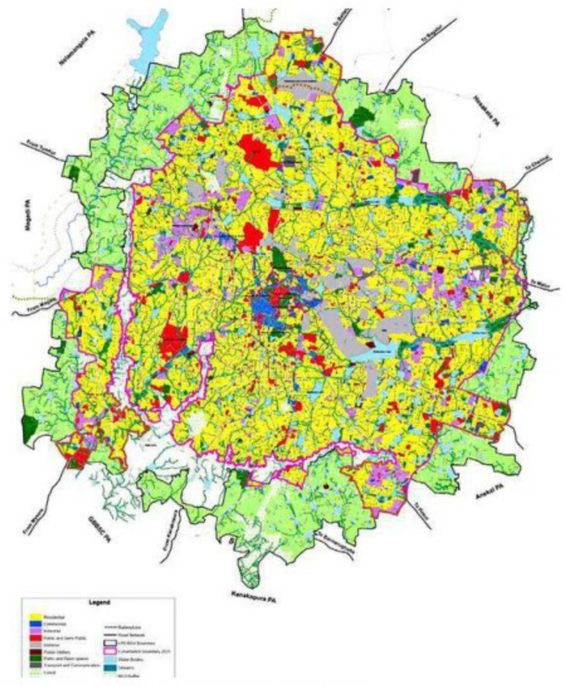
An inglorious mess. That is precisely what Bengaluru's bizarre, chaotic outward expansion has become, despite decades spent articulating the crying need for planned, regulated, controlled growth. How long should the city wait for a Master Plan that really works?

The last such attempt, the Revised Master Plan (RMP 2031) was scrapped two years ago. By all accounts, a new plan would take at least two years. But there is no sign that work on a draft is in the making. Does this mean Bengalureans would have to perennially endure the consequences of random infrastructure projects envisioned with zero connection to what the city really needs?

Tasked with preparing the draft, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) had insisted that groundwork on the plan would be taken up on priority. Last year, the new commissioner had talked about drone surveys to identify the residential, commercial, agricultural and other zones, analysing the city's planning needs for the next 10 years. He had agreed it was a long process and a survey was only the first step.

A file photo of congestion on the Outer Ring Road. K. MURALI KUMAR


Land use of Bengaluru Metropolitan Area (BMA) when the Revised Master Plan (RMP-2031) was drafted.


Land use of BMA as proposed by RMP-2031.

RMP-2031

Approval for the draft RMP-2031 was reportedly withdrawn for not incorporating the recommendations of a Transit Oriented Development (ToD) policy. It also lacked the integration of a Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP), prepared by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA). This legislation was passed well over a year ago, but the Authority is yet to take shape.

In the current vacuum, the BDA has been using the outdated RMP 2015 to approve plans. For the record, RMP 2015 has been blamed for all the havoc triggered by constructions on storm water drains and lake beds. Many policy experts are convinced that the genesis of the floods that had the city in a twister of mobility woes and marooned scores of localities could be attributed to the old plan prepared in 2006.

Problematic old plans

Bengaluru does have a history of Master Plans. But did they really help the city grow in an organised manner? Not really. Planning, as articulated by the 74th Constitutional Amendment, should be a local government function, as urban planner Anjali K. Mohan points out. This bottom-up approach would mean the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) prepares a spatial plan embodying, through the ward committees, socio-economic development as the goal.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee would then provide a framework for such ground-up planning. It would also be tasked with coordinating and collating such efforts across local governments to prevent overlaps and gaps in large infrastructure planning and implementation.

A bottom up approach

Architect and urban planner Brinda Sastry who was consultant planner for RMP 2015 notes that the now withdrawn RMP 2031 "brought in the critical perspective of building the city's vision in the regional context. However, it is imperative for the proposed vision of the upcoming Master Plan to include a framework for local area planning, which would provide opportunity to coordinate development initiatives across scales while involving ward level participatory planning."

The Bangalore Master Plan 2015, she recalls, had several new perspectives for envisioning the future of the city. "It was the first time that the city's system of tanks and nullahs were documented using GIS, with the aim to conserve them. Ecologically sensitive areas were zoned for protection. The proposed land use zoning plan was responsive to the development trends while recognizing the prevailing traditional urban patterns of the city," elaborates Brinda.

Specific projects and programmes were proposed in the Planning District report for implementation at a local scale. "However, the plan was not implemented as envisioned and violations of the proposed zoning led to unmanageable consequences. Provision for periodic update of the Plan and frameworks for conducting local area planning exercises were lacking. It required coordinating future projects and plans across various departments in the government and allocation of funds for implementation."

The Master Plan is mandated to be revised once every 10 years as per the provisions of Section 13D of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961. RMP 2015, prepared and approved on June 25, 2007, was in force when the draft for the 2031 plan was prepared.

Violated with impunity

Master plans have been violated with impunity in the past. For instance, the areas marked as agricultural zones in the RMP 2015 have seen massive land use changes, with authorized and unauthorised developments mushrooming. Road networks are rarely integrated, triggering severe traffic gridlocks.

The 2007 expansion of the old Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BMP) to a 198-ward Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) only added to the chaos. Seventeen years after that transition, vast swathes of the city's outer areas are still without a proper drainage system, well connected roads, parks, bus connectivity, street lights and other basic amenities.

Every five years

"A new master plan, whether RMP 2041 or 2051, should be more dynamic. What we need more are guiding principles, and the plan must be revisited on a five-yearly basis," feels urbanist V. Ravichandar. While it can have long goals and vision, the plan must be dynamic and open to readjustment.

Bringing all agencies linked to the city on board is one way to keep violations at bay, he notes. "It should have a lot more ground up inputs, including from citizens. It needs to ensure that all agencies are part of the process. Currently, the BDA makes the plan and others are not bothered."

The city's rapid population growth, exasperated by a grossly inadequate public infrastructure, has had the planning process play catch up. By one estimate, the city's population grew by a whopping 38% from 1991 to 2001, adding another 47% in the decade thereafter. Although the 2011 census put the city's population at 8.4 million, Bengaluru is to be home to 12.5 million by 2025.

The lack of a consultative process in preparing the master plan is learnt to have directly impacted RMP 2031. Although non-integration of ToD and CMP were cited as factors that led to the plan's scrapping, objections from landowners and political players on the demarcation of green zones were also a key deciding factor.

Going beyond surveys

"Updating the master plan is definitely important because we are now working off 2015 survey data. A lot of development has happened since then which is not in alignment even with that master plan," notes urban mobility activist Sathya Sankaran. "This shows we don't just need to do surveys, we need to know the problems we are trying to fix," he says.

The master plan, he reminds, "should not be relegated to just drawing lines on a document by some consultants who don't understand the nature and systems of the city."

From a mobility perspective, he draws attention to Bengaluru overtaking Delhi as the city with the most number of car registrations. "Without the BMLTA being constituted and making the ToD plans for the city, the master plan will be relegated to drawing lines on the map based on individual transport agencies working on their independent financial indicators and plans," elaborates Sathya.

A business as usual approach would mean Bengaluru will continue to lag behind on efficient mass movement of people using public transport, cycling and walking, he cautions. The time is now to think ahead and plan for sustainable urban development for the city. Grand plans such as the tunnel roads are just not the way forward.

'Institutions must carry forward the vision of Shantiniketan'

Bose Krishnamachari, co-founder of Kochi-Muziris Biennale spoke at the Avani exhibition held at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To make great art and to imbibe knowledge, it is important for an artist to spend time with not just artists, but also with musicians, theatre artists, film makers, writers and so on, said Bose Krishnamachari, painter, curator, and co-founder of Kochi-Muziris Biennale. Krishnamachari was speaking at the Avani exhibition organised by Kerala-based Avani Design Institute. Part of a travelling exhibition the event was held at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath and featured the work of several students.

Speaking to the audience, Mr. Krishnamachari reminisced how, growing up in a small village Kerala, he used to do theatre at home with neighbours, friends and artists.

"I used to see fantastic artists in my village. But they never got their opportunity because nobody was there to guide them. Fortunately, I could spend a lot of time later with not just artists or art makers, but musicians, theatre people, film makers, writers... I was fortunate to meet some brilliant minds in architecture," he said.

The Avani exhibition at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath.

Artist Bose Krishnamachari (right) in conversation with architect Ravindra Kumar at the Avani exhibition.

He noted that while it was the responsibility of the students to find their own path, the educator should show not just show their own work, but team them to look at others as well.

"Self realisation is an important aspect in art, but it's important to know self as well as others," said Krishnamachari, citing the example of Shanti Niketan, which he noted was a great example of this vision.

"We should continue that vision. There should be cafeterias under trees, Schools should be open spaces. Every school should be art schools," he said citing British artist Bob and Roberta Smith.

Technology in art

Ravindra Kumar, principal architect at Pragrup Architects and Bangalore director - Design at Venkataramanan Associated, moderated the session. Kumar broughup the topic of technology in art. "As I visited the Dubai Arts festival in the last two years, I was intrigued to see the dominance of technology. In art and architecture, it is growing to a space which is very alien to interpretation," he said.

Krishnamachari responded by saying that it is important to have collaborations between scientists, technologists, architects and artists.

"You see quite a lot of technology in contemporary art. When photography was invented, a French painter said that painting was dead. Nothing is dying in this world. It is only transforming. It's a transformative time. You have to invent new philosophies accordingly," he said.

"We are all working for a better world - whether you are an architect or a designer or an artist; A better world, not only for yourself but for others well. So, scientists, technologists, architects and artists should come together and make things. If we look at the history of art, there used to be clubs where people would come together and talk about the philosophy of dadaism or surrealism which originated in such conversations," he added.

Krishnamachari also noted that the course of making art should be unpredictable. Citing Picasso, he said that if you know what you are going to make, then there is no point in making it.

"Great art or music or architecture is unpredictable. How you invent it should be like 'eureka.' Everyday you should get that kind of enlightenment," he said.

Mobile exhibition

The three-day exhibition saw participation from budding architects who showcased their architectural designs, drawings, sketches, 3D models, illustrations, installations, short films, creative posters, calligraphy, and origami figures.

Inaugurated by Architect Sanjay Mohe, the exhibition was hosted by 200 students of the Bachelor of Architecture and 40 teachers at Avani institute.

Architect Tony Joseph, Principal and Chairman, Avani Institute of Design, presided over the function. Prof. Roger Connah delivered the keynote address. Architects Aparna Narasimhan, Akshay Heranjal, George Seemon and Ishita Shah also spoke during the event.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1974

Research Institute in Ayurveda Suggested

Bangalore, Jan. 22: The Governor of Karnataka, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, suggested here to-day the establishment of an All India Institute for Research in Ayurveda.

Inaugurating the 28th session of the Karnataka Pradesika Ayurvedic Maha Sammelana, he said since such an institute could not be set up in every state, the Government of India could establish it. The Institute should have all facilities and could go into the ayurvedic methods of treatment and practices so as to recommend them to the people for adaptation. He also wanted the Ayurvedic practitioners to take advantage of the existing pathological facilities.

Breakdown of Public Exam System

Bangalore, Jan. 22: Dr. George Jacob, Chairman, University Grants Commission said yesterday that the public examination system had broken down in certain institutions in the country.

Speaking to pressmen, he felt that unless a different system was devised the present assessment had no meaning. He said where the public examination system had broken down the system should be decentralised and the autonomous colleges should be decentralised and the autonomous colleges should be allowed to hold their own examinations. He admitted that there was an element of risk involved in this but still this decentralisation was being proposed because the risk involved in public examination was even greater.

CITYBEATS

Activities galore

JANUARY 24, 25, 26
Be a part of melodious jams held every Wednesday, with vocals and musical instruments. On Thursday, attend Stand-up Thursdays by Adesh Nichit, and get into deep meditation with Thriving Minds on Friday. Tickets on Townscript and BookMyShow. Call 9886294444 for details.
At Lahe Lahe.

Celebratory note

ON TILL JANUARY 25
The Bollywood-themed restobar, Hitchki, is having an ongoing pre-Republic Day celebration. The bar menu is offering patrons 25% off on the entire liquor bill. The menu offers you a fusion of flavours to be enjoyed with Bollywood music. Offer is on till January 25, 7pm.
At Hitchki Resto Bar

Mexican delights

ONGOING
Dig into Mexican cuisine that serves you authentic flavours from the region. The food, with corn, chilli and beans, and other dishes celebrate the spirit of Mexican tradition.
The menu has been curated by chef Vikas Seth and will include Sanchez fiesta nachos, chicken empanadas and pistachio mole.
At Sanchez, Lavelle Road

Brews and food

ONGOING
The Kind Roastery & Brewroom, JP Nagar, has unveiled speciality coffees – Apple Latte, Pineapple Pour Over and Cinnamon Jaggery Cold Drip. "We offer more than just coffee, revealing the dedication of our farmers and special beans," says Pallavii Gupta, founder of the restaurant.

The sweet taste of hard-won success

Chef Tala Bashmi talks about the challenges and joys of her chosen profession

Attention to detail Chef Tala Bashmi at Chambers, Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj

"Most people don't know this, but I was a professional footballer when I was younger, playing with the national team for seven years. I think it's important to show that I did not fit the norms of what a woman should do or how our profession should shape up," says Bahraini chef Tala Bashmi.

Tala, who had to discontinue professional football due to injuries, says it was while she was in her 20s that she began to explore "what I truly wanted to do."

Tala was recently in the city as a guest of The Chambers at the Taj West End where she curated a sit-down dinner that showcased her culinary heritage.

"As with a lot of women, cooking is my love language – it's how I show people I care about them. Seeing the joy on the faces of my family and friends every time I fed them something they enjoyed made me happy, made me feel fulfilled."

In order to make a career out of her passion, Tala began a home-based baking business in 2010. "For a year and a half, I handled every aspect of this business – from marketing and purchases to baking and delivery. That's where I learnt the basics of the industry in terms of costing, overheads and other factors most people may not know about when they decide to start a cafe or restaurant."

Fiercely competitive by nature, Tala says she wanted to be the best at whatever she did, so she decided to join the Gulf Hotels for formal training and hands-on experience as a chef. "That was in 2014. I joined as a trainee and I started from the ground up, working in the butchery and other sections for long hours."

"For the first two years. I wasn't allowed to cook a single complete dish; I was only prepping. I think that it's invaluable and all young chefs need to go through it. You have to do the grunt work and endless hours of mindless preparation. Being a chef is not about working in a fine dining restaurant and plating with tweezers."

"It takes a long time to get there and we shouldn't skip these steps," says Tala, who later moved to Switzerland to pursue a culinary degree. "I was there for two years, working and studying at Michelin-starred restaurants and it was the most challenging experience of my life, until I opened my restaurant and that brought several other challenges," she says with a laugh.

"Switzerland had a different kitchen culture. It was run by chefs with an old school mentality where they try to break your spirit and put you down. A small example – the kitchen I worked in for six months, the chef didn't deign to learn my name; he just addressed me as 'woman'."

"You work 18 hours a day and shouldn't complain because everybody else is doing it too. As a woman, you have to prove yourself in this industry by working twice as hard. In the kitchen, it's not only your mental strength and emotional intelligence, your physical strength matters too."

Despite the challenges of living abroad, not speaking the language and working in a tough, male-dominated industry, Tala says there were also chefs who were amazing mentors too.

Payday and then some

"I returned to Bahrain and began working at Fusions, eventually becoming sous chef in 2017. The management gave me the opportunity to take over the restaurant which was little more than a galley kitchen," says Tala, adding, "It was just another hand and me, since the other person quit – he didn't want to call me chef or work under me."

Still, Tala proved she was made of sterner stuff. "Within a year, the restaurant went from doing about two covers a day, to 30 covers daily with just the two of us. With almost no marketing, we were able to increase the profit percentage by over 1,000% and the management allowed us to renovate the space."

"I got to have a bigger kitchen, change the layout, and create my own concept menu with my vision for the restaurant. We reopened in 2020 officially as Fusions by Tala, right before the pandemic hit."

And if this wasn't enough, Tala was participating on *Top Chef* Middle East at the time her restaurant was opening. "I made it to the finals and when you're on the show, you have no access to your phone or emails – you get a 10-minute phone call once in three days. I kept calling my team for updates on our restaurant opening."

Tala says winning the World's Best Female Chef Middle East North Africa (MENA) award in 2022 was an amazing turning point. "After all the hard work, it felt really good to be acknowledged."

And that's not all. From entering the list in 39th place, Fusions by Tala now holds the No.3 spot. "It's an unbelievable feat and all the credit goes to my team."

"Though Bahrain has always been open minded in comparison to other nations in the Persian Gulf, there wasn't always this respect for what we do as chefs. You were considered a lowly cook; there was no prestige to our craft. Television and shows such as *Top Chef* broke that boundary."

"I would say the biggest struggle is changing the mentality that this field is much more than just cooking – it's an art, a way of thinking, it's philosophy. I have faced hurdles in my region and in Europe as a chef and as a female, but they were very different."

Hello India!

For the sit-down dinner at Chambers, Tala sought to curate a meal that would be both fresh on the palate and yet, not entirely unfamiliar.

"*Saloona* (a stew or curry) bridges the gap between the cuisines of both our countries. Since Bahrain was a huge trading hub, spices would come from India and we'd manipulate it to fit our cuisine."

"Though *saloona* can be prepared using any kind of meat, we use seafood at home as it is our main protein. This is a dish my father would make every Friday for lunch and its one of my favourites."

"The recipe for *burraniya* (a dish of lamb, charred eggplant and mint) is from a mediaeval Arabic cookbook that is over a 1000 years old. It originated in Sumeria, Mesopotamia, and was a dish the sultan's wife would cook for him. For me, this shows Arabic cuisine at its purest form before external influences."

Tala, who used *atraf al-tib*, a 1000-year-old spice mix while preparing the *burraniya*, says it was "absolutely challenging" to come up with vegetarian versions for the menu since it is not a common option in the Middle East. "For Arabs, eating vegetables meant you couldn't afford meat; however, that is slowly changing now and there are people who look for a vegetarian experience."

For vegetarian options, Tala used butternut squash and vegan caviar in the *saloona*, and eggplant and truffles in the *burraniya*.

As it was her first trip to the country, Tala did give Indian food a try. "I know food here is regional, micro-regional even, so have barely scratched the surface of cuisine here. I enjoyed *dum* chicken and almost every dish I've tried here has inspired me as the flavours are so tangy and fresh.

"We use tamarind and turmeric in Bahraini cuisine too, but here it is a flavour explosion," she says.

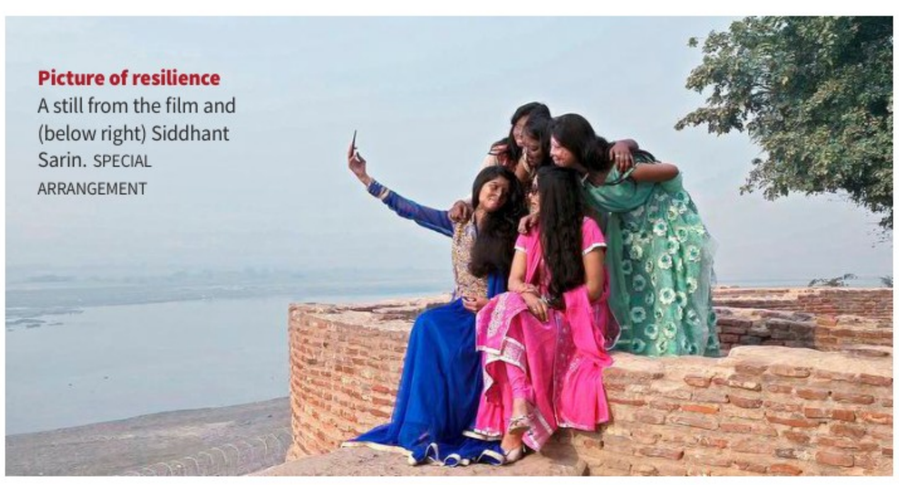
"I'm blessed to be able to not only share my cuisine and culture wherever I go, but also learn something new of the cuisine of people I meet on my travels. I carry that with me and fit it into my expanded dictionary of the world."

Siddhant Sarin's *Ayena* to be screened in Bengaluru

Shilpa Anandraj

While we use makeup to hide our flaws, acid survivor Ritu Saini says: "Please don't hide my scars with make up". That hits you hard. This is a scene from a heart-wrenching debut documentary film *Ayena (Mirror),* directed by short film maker Siddhant Sarin.

"The film reflects upon the effects of a momentary act of revenge that transforms the lives of two women – Ritu Saini and Faraha Khan forever," says Siddhant over the phone from Jaipur, where he is conducting a filmmaking workshop. "After surviving the acid attack , they carry the scars of human brutality on their bodies. They face the challenge of navigating a sea of odd currents everyday, besides curious stares from people."



Picture of resilience A still from the film and (below right) Siddhant Sarin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ritu's scars also brought her fame, says Siddhant, an alumnus of Docnomads, DFFB (German Film & Television Academy, Berlin) and FAMU (Film & TV School of Performing Arts, Prague). "She occasionally finds herself talking on television, modelling and even featuring in a Hindi film."

The 70-minute film in Urdu and Hindi with English subtitles, Siddhant says, was five years in the making. "I did not think I would make a film on acid survivors. I read about them and their struggles and also found them on social media platforms. What struck me most about their posts were the happy pictures they had uploaded. Their videos were filled with joy and laughter."

That was when Siddhant decided to meet them and make a documentary to capture their life, work and their blending into society post the trauma. The survivors were working in a restaurant called Sheroes, that works for the rehabilitation of acid survivors, in Agra, Lucknow and Noida. "I went to Agra. Ritu and Faraha were the first two I met. We instantly connected and a beautiful bond of trust and friendship was born, which is what I hope the viewer will also see and experience while watching the film."

A lawyer, Siddhant gave up his practice to become a filmmaker. "Even while practising law, I felt disconnected with the profession and started dabbling in ad films, short films and finally plunged into studying the craft of filmmaking itself". The trajectory of *Ayena*, Siddhant says, tilted towards gender-based violence. "For me, it was a

> After surviving the acid attack , they carry the scars of human brutality on their bodies.
>
> **SIDDHANT SARIN**
> Filmmaker

way to get to know Ritu and Faraha as human-beings. They live independently earning their living."

The film captures Ritu and Faraha's struggles and the long-drawn path to recovery and face reconstruction surgeries, their disillusionment with relationships and life, the loneliness they battle and more. Despite the agony of wrecked physicality, Ritu and Faraha live with confidence. The fact that they bear no grudges against their attackers is hard-hitting. "A man destroyed us, yet, there are men who are helping us rebuild our lives," says Ritu.

The film not only deals with the afterlife of the attack, but also captures Ritu and Faraha reconstructing not just their faces, but also their lives with a positive mindset. While Faraha does get a marriage proposal, a dejected Ritu says she does not look forward to it. "The groom comes and is shocked once he sees our scarred faces and rejects us. What's the point?" The film portrays Ritu and Faraha as ready to blend into society, albeit with the scars of life and trauma. The question is if society is ready to take them back into its fold. Siddhant who has written and directed *Ayena,* also produces the film with Arunas Matelis, Studio Nominum Sarah Kang and Seesaw Pictures.

Ayena, *presented by Vikalp Bengaluru, will be screened at BIC at 6.30pm on January 24. Siddhant will join virtually for a Q and A session post the screening.*

A BG-BGE

LDF-UDF slam Modi; BJP says Cong. is unable to tolerate festive mood

Both the fronts in Kerala depict the Ayodhya event as more of a political spectacle to galvanise Hindu votes ahead of the Lok Sabha election than a religious ceremony marked by profound spirituality

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition in Kerala accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of blurring the time-honoured constitutional boundary between state and religion by wilfully donning the role of the principal celebrant and master of ceremonies at the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday.

Both the fronts depicted the high-profile event that cast Mr. Modi at its centre as more of a political spectacle to galvanise Hindu votes ahead of the Lok Sabha election than a religious ceremony marked by profound spirituality.

Devotees light earthen lamps at Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple on the occasion of the consecration of Ram temple in Ayodhya. PTI

In contrast, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) portrayed the inauguration as the crowning glory of the Narendra Modi government and a resonant rebuke of political opponents who turned their back on the emotive ceremony.

Notably, the BJP in Kerala appeared to throw down the gauntlet to the Congress-led INDIA bloc by pointedly extolling the temple inauguration in Rahul Gandhi's Wayanad constituency.

The party's Kerala incharge, Prakash Javadekar, witnessed the event flanked by SNDP Union leader and chairman of the Bharat Dharma Jana Sena Thushar Vellapally, an NDA ally, on a big screen at Sultan Bathery.

Mr. Javadekar termed the "huge turnout" at the event a rebuke of Mr. Gandhi's boycott of the ceremony.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan sounded his note of dissent immediately after the curtain came down on the high-profile event that dominated the airwaves for the better part of the day. In a video message, Mr. Vijayan said celebrating the inauguration of a religious place of worship as a state event ran against the grain of the Constitution's secular foundation.

Mr. Vijayan said several persons holding high office did not attend the event to uphold the public's faith in the non-religious nature of the republic's founding document.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan broadcasted a strikingly contrasting message by joining the BJP leaders in prayer at the Rema Devi temple in Thiruvananthapuram.

SpiceJet to compensate 2 for cancelling flight tickets

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Ernakulam District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered a travel agency and an airline to pay customers a compensation of ₹64,000 for cancelling tickets without making alternative arrangements.

The complainants had booked on the agency's website air tickets for their return journey from New Delhi to Kochi through Bengaluru for official purpose for ₹11,582 on March 9, 2019. However, the airline cancelled the tickets 13 days before the date of journey without making alternative arrangements.

The travel agency offered to refund only ₹8,884. Even the promised refund did not materialise, the complainant alleged.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Odisha and north Madhya Pradesh. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	17.4	13.2	Kozhikode	—	35.9	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	27.5	13.8	Kurnool	—	34.8	21.6
Aizawl	—	22.2	8.7	Lucknow	—	16.8	7.7
Allahabad	—	12.8	6.3	Madurai	—	32.9	22.1
Bengaluru	—	30.6	18.5	Mangaluru	—	32.4	22.6
Bhopal	—	24.3	8.6	Mumbai	—	31.1	17.1
Bhubaneswar	—	25.4	17.2	Mysuru	—	31.1	17.0
Chandigarh	—	14.5	7.9	New Delhi	—	17.6	6.1
Chennai	—	30.9	22.6	Patna	—	18.0	5.5
Coimbatore	—	32.2	20.8	Port Blair	—	30.3	23.6
Dehradun	—	15.0	6.6	Puducherry	—	31.1	22.6
Gangtok	2	13.2	4.3	Pune	—	32.5	14.8
Goa	—	32.2	20.4	Raipur	3.2	25.0	14.4
Guwahati	—	20.1	12.6	Ranchi	—	23.2	7.5
Hubballi	—	34.0	18.0	Shillong	—	15.5	4.5
Hyderabad	—	31.3	20.7	Shimla	—	16.6	5.0
Imphal	—	22.2	2.6	Srinagar	—	11.6	-5.3
Jaipur	—	22.8	8.8	Thiruvananthapuram	0.4	34.9	24.7
Kochi	—	33.0	25.6	Tiruchi	—	32.5	21.4
Kohima	—	15.5	4.0	Vijayawada	—	30.8	21.0
Kolkata	—	20.7	10.8	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	22.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	11	.14	211	168	
Bengaluru	.10	.17	.24	104	136	
Chennai	.25	.49	.40	109	108	
Delhi	.25	114	.64	364	291	
Hyderabad	6	185	.38	70	—	
Kolkata	.16	.78	.27	300	200	
Lucknow	9	.33	.95	286	199	
Mumbai	—	.72	8	202	153	
Pune	113	160	111	107	100	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.39	.51	121	120	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Balasore, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 346 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 35

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Cong. protests in A.P., Telangana against 'attack' on Rahul yatra

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

In her maiden visit to Visakhapatnam after taking charge as the new Andhra Pradesh Congress president, Y.S. Sharmila on Monday joined her party activists from the district in a protest against the BJP over the latter's alleged attack on the Congress's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Assam.

Ms. Sharmila raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the protest. She said, "The Congress party strongly condemns the attack by BJP cadres on the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Assam. The BJP is not able to digest the fact that the yatra has been cruising unstoppably, uniting hearts and inspiring people, moving unopposed under Mr. Rahul Gandhi's leadership."

She further said, "Doesn't the country belong to everyone? Do only the BJP and RSS people live here? Should Mr. Rahul Gandhi take permission from Mr. Modi to go on the roads or visit temples? What is the link between the restrictions on visiting temples by Rahul Gandhi and inauguration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya? The BJP-ruled States are not allowing the Congress to peacefully take out the yatra, which is aimed at protecting the rights of the people of the country."

Candlelight rally

In Telangana, Congress leaders led by Minister for IT D. Sridhar Babu held a candlelight rally from Babu Jagjivan Ram's statue to Ambedkar's statue in Basheerbagh on Monday evening. Mr. Babu demanded that the BJP apologise to the Congress and Mr. Rahul Gandhi for failing to provide security to him.

The BJP was jealous of the support for the Nyay Yatra across the country, he said. While BJP workers were behaving like gangsters, the Congress always believed in democracy where people's rights are upheld.

A.P. Congress president Y.S. Sharmila staging a protest at the Gandhi statue in Visakhapatnam on Monday. V. RAJU

Kerala human sacrifice case: HC dismisses bail plea of accused

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed the bail application filed by Laila Bhagaval Singh, third accused in the Elanthoor human sacrifice case. The petitioner submitted that she had been behind the bars since October 25, 2022. As the investigation was over and the final report filed, there was no need to detain her in custody any longer and she could be released on bail. Dismissing the bail plea, Justice Sophy Thomas observed that the manner in which the accused persons allegedly committed the offence was really shocking and beyond human imagination. It was a case which had shattered the conscience of society and it was a shame to the entire humanity. If the petitioner was released on bail, it would affect societal peace and tranquillity and her presence in society itself would be a source of danger, the court said. Moreover, her release may be a black mark on the conscience of the society, and it may send a wrong message to like-minded criminals. Hence, the court was not inclined to allow this petition for bail. The court also asked the trial court to proceed with the trial without any delay.

Bhagaval Singh, a 68-year-old traditional massage therapist, and his 59-year-old wife Laila allegedly murdered two women, as part of a ritualistic human sacrifice. They were allegedly driven by the superstitious belief that it would make them richer.

Revision time

Police personnel rehearsing for the Republic Day parade at Kottamaidan in Palakkad on Monday. K.K. MUSTAFAH

Police foil 'Chalo Vijayawada' march by anganwadi workers

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Police on Monday foiled the 'Chalo Vijayawada' march planned by anganwadi workers and helpers. The workers were on a fast-unto-death for the last five days demanding that the authorities fulfil their 11-point charter of demands.

About 1.06 lakh workers and helpers have been on a State-wide strike since December 12, 2023.

The police entered the venue of the hunger strike at Dharna Chowk in Vijayawada in the morning and forcibly shifted the fasting anganwadi leaders and workers from the camp. The police also removed the tents.

The operation was completed within minutes.

Station House Officers (SHOs) of many police stations served notices on the anganwadi workers directing them not to participate in the 'Chalo Vijayawada and Tadepalli' rally, which they said had no prior permission from the police.

The police reportedly snatched the camera of a photographer of a Telugu daily and attacked him, when he tried to take pictures of workers being taken into custody at Dharna Chowk. The police also took thousands of anganwadi workers into custody when they were on their way to Vijayawada.

Anganwadi workers shouting slogans while police forcibly shifted them from their protest site, in Vijayawada on Monday. G.N. RAO

Former MLA Gadde Babu Rao rejoins TDP

The Hindu Bureau
VIZIANAGARAM

Former MLA Gadde Babu Rao on Monday said that the development of Vizianagaram and other parts of Andhra Pradesh would be possible only with someone like TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu at the helm, as he had a clear vision on how to develop backward areas of the State.

Mr. Babu Rao, who was elected to the Assembly twice from Cheepurupalli constituency, rejoined the TDP in the presence of Mr. Naidu in Vijayawada recently.

After resigning from the TDP in 2020, Mr. Babu Rao joined the BJP but left the saffron party due to differences with leaders. Speaking to reporters in Cheepurupalli, he said that he had rejoined the TDP at the request of the party's leadership.

Former MLA Gadde Babu Rao joining the TDP in the presence of N. Chandrababu Naidu.

'BBMP can't raze structures built sans approval'

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) cannot straight away demolish buildings that are put up without obtaining approval/sanction for building plan.

The BBMP, at first, will have to issue notice to the property owners besides ascertaining measurements of constructions about floor area ratio, setbacks, usage, etc., of the building put up without obtaining approval for the plan, the court said. Later, the court said the civic body can consider regularisation of the buildings that are within the permissible limit in terms of the Building By-Laws, 2003, by granting approval for the plan after levying fee for constructing building sans obtaining approval and penalty on property tax.

The court made it clear that the BBMP will have to take action for demolishing such buildings only if the owners fail to alter the building to bring it in conformity with the by-laws.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued these directions while allowing a batch of petitions filed by M. Chandrakumar and several other owners of sites in a layout formed by REMCO (BHEL) Cooperative House Building Cooperative Society Ltd, Bengaluru.

Option to owners

The court said that the BBMP will have to give an option to the property owners for regularisation of their buildings.

The main purpose of approval for plan before construction is to see that the approved plan is as per the parameters of the building by-laws to ensure that the constructed building sticks to the norms, the court noted. "Essentially if one were to contend that the construction is illegal, unauthorised or violative of the sanctioned plan, what essentially one means is that the construction is in violation of the building by-laws since the sanction plan is required to be issued in conformity with the building by-laws," the court observed.

"To put it differently, if the construction were to comply with the building by-laws but the construction were to be carried out without obtaining a sanctioned plan, it cannot be said that the construction is in violation of the by-laws. However, it could be said that the construction is illegal since no sanction plan has been obtained," said the court.

In case of the petitioners, the court noted that they had built compound walls, for which no permission was required, and small sheds with tin sheet roofs to "protect their sites from encroachment" from certain persons, and the site owners had multiple rounds of litigations.

On the allegation of the petitioners that the BBMP officials "colluded" with some influential persons who are "attempting to encroach their sites", and hence the officials were trying to demolish these small structures, the court said that officers or the BBMP itself "cannot be treated as a pawn or a stooge of private parties and act on their behalf."

The court also directed the Chief Commissioner to conduct an enquiry into the allegation about collusion of the officials with certain private individuals.

From fear to hope

The Ram temple must help in healing wounds and creating harmony

The opening of the Ram temple in Ayodhya is a sharp turn in the course of the nation. The central role of the state in the rituals associated with the inauguration of the temple is being celebrated by the proponents of the temple, while its opponents fear it is the beginning of a dangerous slide. Two divergent visions of Indian nationhood inspire the two sides. The inauguration of the temple marks a definitive milestone, if not a comprehensive victory, for the vision of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi said it was the beginning of a new era in the history of the country, an era that will last for centuries. He called for humility alongside the celebration of victory, and invoked the universality of the spirit of Ram that encompasses all of humanity. Portraying the temple as a link between India's rich cultural inheritance and ambitions for the future, across the various regions and communities of the country, Mr. Modi exhorted fellow citizens to think big and work purposefully for progress. Ram Rajya has had multiple imaginings. The temple in Ayodhya must inspire and promote the conception of a polity determined not by an obsession with the past, but by an appreciation of the difficulties of the present, and the challenges and opportunities of the future.

The Prime Minister also noted the fact that the temple was facilitated by a judicial decision. The Supreme Court verdict that handed over the disputed land in Ayodhya to the Hindu petitioners had also unambiguously noted that the demolition of Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992 by kar sevaks was a "serious violation of law". Devotees of the temple, in their moment of celebration, should not be unmindful of the past. Triumphalism and grievance must give way to reconciliation and harmony; and fear must yield to hope. The temptation to use the same template of settling contests over places of worship must be abandoned immediately. Seeking to settle historical grievances can trigger unpredictable social forces and risk national unity. Mr. Modi himself noted this fact, while appreciating the relative ease with which the temple was built after the Supreme Court verdict in 2019. In the making of present-day politics, the past is often used as malleable material. It can surely be deployed for the purpose of forging unity and creating harmony, instead of for accentuating differences. The wisdom of statecraft is in making the right choice.

Spiking tensions

Dialling down aggressive rhetoric is crucial for peace in Korean Peninsula

Kim Jong-un's decision to declare South Korea as an enemy state of the North and abandon the idea of peaceful reunification signals that Pyongyang is adopting a more aggressive stand. Recent months also saw increased war rhetoric from Mr. Kim as well as a series of weapons tests by the North. Last week, Pyongyang claimed to have fired a medium-range hypersonic missile that could travel at low altitudes. It has also tested underwater, unmanned, nuclear-capable drones. Earlier this month, the North fired hundreds of artillery shells near the South's islands of Yeonpyeong and Baengnyeong, closer to the Northern Limit Line, a disputed inter-Korean maritime border. It is evident from these actions that the Kim regime is seeking to alter the status quo. But Mr. Kim's actions were not entirely unprovoked. He sees the growing military convergence between South Korea, Japan, and the U.S. as a security threat. The three countries recently linked up their missile-radar data with one another. The U.S. and South Korea also routinely conduct joint military exercises, which triggers sharp reactions from the North. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who assumed office in May 2022, has also maintained a hawkish stand towards Pyongyang, saying that peace can be achieved only through strength.

In the past, despite its rhetoric, North Korea was open to diplomatic engagement with the South and the U.S. In 1994, it reached the Agreed Framework with the Clinton administration. As part of this, it agreed to freeze the operation and construction of its nuclear reactors. It was after the collapse of the Agreed Framework during the George Bush Jr. administration that Pyongyang went nuclear. President Donald Trump reached out to the North, which temporarily stabilised inter-Korean ties. When the Trump initiative failed, tensions spiked again. The North's leaders, given what happened to Libya, Iraq, and the Iran nuclear agreement, have little incentive to give up their nuclear weapons for an agreement with the U.S. In an apparent rejection of the path of reconciliation with the U.S., Pyongyang has ruled out talks on denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and has taken measures to strengthen ties with China and Russia. But even a complicated diplomatic path would be preferable to a military path any day. A direct conflict between the two Koreas, one a nuclear power and the other backed by the world's most powerful country, would be disastrous for the entire region. Dialling down tensions and rebuilding confidence in inter-Korean relations should be an immediate priority for all stakeholders – Seoul, Pyongyang, and Washington.

Tax contribution by States needs to be revisited

R. Srinivasan
is Member, State Planning Commission

S. Raja Sethu Durai
is Professor of Economics, University of Hyderabad

The Finance Commission's important job is to recommend a distribution formula specifying each State's share in the part of the Union tax revenue assigned to States. Such distribution formulas have a few weighted determinants. Since the 1st Finance Commission, some States have been arguing that their contributions to the Union tax revenue have been higher than others and, therefore, they rightfully have higher shares in the Union tax revenue. In the first eight Finance Commissions, tax contribution with very little weight was a determinant in the distribution formula. Since the 10th Finance Commission, this tax contribution was dropped from the distribution formula. Here, we argue that tax contribution by each State is a good measure of efficiency, and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime creates an opportunity for its inclusion in the distribution formula.

Equity, efficiency in tax revenue transfers

Two important tasks of the Finance Commissions are (i) to recommend the proportion of the Union tax revenues to be assigned to States and (ii) to recommend the share of each State in the assigned tax revenue. Till 2000, that is, the 10th Finance Commission, the States' share was restricted only to personal income tax and Union excise duties and after that, all the Central tax revenues were pooled, and States' shares were decided. With reference to the second task, the Finance Commission devises a distribution formula to arrive at a share for each State, and it is based on the principles of equity and efficiency. Equity stipulates that the revenue-scarce States and States with higher expenditures get larger shares of Union tax revenue than others. Efficiency is to reward the States that are efficient in collecting revenue and rationalising spending. The trade-off between equity and efficiency is normative and remains dynamic in successive Finance Commission recommendations.

States from which large volumes of income tax revenue have been collected argued to consider and assign a higher weight to 'tax collection' as an indicator of tax contribution. The origin of income is essential to estimate States' contributions to income tax revenue, which is difficult to identify, as a person may pay income tax from one State though the income earning is from other States. Successive Finance Commissions have assigned 10% to 20% weight to income tax revenue collection/assessment in the distribution formula for income tax revenue because collection is not a good indicator of contribution. In the case of Union excise duties, the value of taxable products consumed in a State is essential to decide its contribution. Due to the unavailability of proper consumption statistics, contribution was never a determinant in the distribution formula for Union excise duties.

> The tax contribution of each State is a good measure of efficiency, and the GST regime creates an opportunity for its inclusion in the distribution formula

We should note that tax contribution is an efficiency indicator because a State's level of development and economic structure decides its tax contribution. However, Finance Commissions had assigned only 10% to 20% weight to this efficiency indicator. Population, a chief indicator of the expenditure needs of the State, was given 80% to 90% weight in the first seven Finance Commissions as far as income tax distribution was concerned. In the case of distributing revenue from Union excise duties, the entire distribution was based on population or other indicators of expenditure needs such as area, per capita income, proportion of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe population, and some indicators of social and physical infrastructure needs. Since the 10th Finance Commission, the Commission has recommended a single distribution formula for both income tax and Union excise duties. Thus, the Finance Commissions have always favoured assigning more than 75% weight to equity indicators.

Since 2000, the formula for the distribution of pooled Central tax revenues included tax effort and fiscal discipline as efficiency indicators with a weight of around 15%. Tax effort is broadly defined as the ratio of own revenue of a State to its Gross Domestic Product. Fiscal discipline is the proportion of own revenue to the revenue expenditure of a State. In the 15th Finance Commission, the distribution formula had tax effort with a weight of 2.5%, and demographic performance, an indicator of efficiency in population control, was given a weight of 12.5%. The remaining 85% weight was distributed among equity indicators of per capita income, population as per the 2011 Census instead of the conventional 1971 Census, area, forest cover, etc.

Tax contribution in distribution formula

Even though some States have been arguing for increasing the weightage for efficiency indicators such as tax effort and fiscal discipline, these indicators have received lower weights as they are unstable. The tax effort is affected by discretionary tax policies and unexpected changes in actual tax bases. The fiscal discipline is affected by contractual payments such as salaries, pensions, and interest payments, as well as the tied-grant-induced expenditures of States. An objective measure of tax contribution by States, given the stability in tax structure, should be a good indicator of efficiency and be assigned a larger weight. GST satisfies this criterion.

GST is a consumption-based destination tax that is equally divided between the State and Central governments. In other words, the State GST accrual (inclusive of Integrated GST settlement) to a State should be the same as the Central GST accrual to the Union government from that State. Therefore, accurately estimating the tax contribution from a State to the Union exchequer is feasible under GST. Since GST is a unified tax system, the calculations by these authors show that there is not much of a variation in the tax efforts of States. However, the absolute amount of GST revenue generated from each State would differ by the size and structure of States' economies, and this marks the importance of the inclusion of this tax contribution as an efficiency indicator in the distribution formula. A State's GST contribution is not affected by discretionary tax policies of the State; it only reflects the accurate tax base of the State that is being exploited for the national good.

In addition to GST, petroleum consumption is also an indicator of tax contribution to the national exchequer. The Union excise duty and sales tax on petroleum products are outside GST. The cascading tax burden of these two taxes in addition to the burden of customs duty on petroleum imports falls on the final consumers of petroleum products in a State. Just like GST, the relative shares of petroleum consumption vary across States, but such shares are stable over time for every State. Therefore, the relative share of a State's petroleum consumption reflects the relative contribution of the State to the national exchequer in the category of Union excise duties and customs duties on petroleum products.

Including the relative GST contribution and petroleum consumption of a State in the distribution formula is irresistible for yet another reason, that is, both these two ratios indicate the relative differences in the incomes (both personal and corporate) accrued to the residents of a State because consumption is a function of income. The share of CGST and Union excise duty is about 30% of States' share in Central tax revenue in 2021-22 and the similar ratio for personal and corporate income taxes is 64%.

Thus, the two relative contributions, namely GST revenue and petroleum consumption, of States are fair and accurate measures of States' contributions to the national exchequer and a good measure of efficiency. There is a persuasive case for the 16th Finance Commission, recently constituted by the Union government, to debate and include these ratios as a measure of efficiency with a weightage of at least 33% in the distribution formula.

The idea of one nation, one election is against federalism

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram
is Advocate, Madras High Court, and DMK spokesperson. Dhileepan P. provided inputs for the article

In September 2023, the Union Government set up a 'High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election' under the chairmanship of former President of India, Ramnath Kovind. The High Level Committee has met on three occasions and sought the views of various national and State political parties on the subject of a common elections schedule. Recently, public views and those of eminent jurists were also solicited in this regard. Though there is no definitive timeline for the Committee to submit its recommendations, the fact that the timing of this exercise coincides with the lead-up to the general elections in 2024 raises pertinent doubts. Nevertheless, as the outcome of this exercise has the potential to alter the fundamentals of our democratic set-up and reset the federal structure, it is necessary to examine the legal issues at the earliest juncture.

There are compelling reasons to believe that the High Level Committee is likely to return a recommendation in favour of a common schedule comprising elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies overlooking genuine constitutional and legal concerns. This is why all the attention, in the aftermath of this exercise, would entirely focus on the Supreme Court of India. This would be India's *Baker v. Carr* moment where the Supreme Court of the U.S. deliberated the concept of "entering the political thicket". The Indian Supreme Court, which has self-characterised its constitutional role as the "sentinel on the qui vive", would be called upon to determine, quickly and purposefully, the ultimate fate of Indian democracy.

Are common elections feasible?

One of the reasons assigned in support of One Nation, One Election is the high amount of expenditure towards the conduct of elections. It is reported that the 2014 general elections cost the public exchequer an estimated ₹3,870 crore. It is argued that common elections for the Union Parliament and State Assemblies would reduce expenditure significantly. Another reason put forth by proponents of a common election is that the Model Code of Conduct comes into effect twice in a five year cycle, which affects the seamless conduct of government business and results in 'governance downtime'.

> Any action that impinges upon the independent constitutional existence of a State by altering the duration of its Legislative Assembly would naturally be anti-federal and unconstitutional

Opponents of the common elections contend that these reasons are logically and factually untenable. The cost of holding free and fair elections to elect a government of the choice of the people is a price that can never be high. There are occasions where a government may not complete a full term of five years, and elections may be held again. Such occurrences are expressions of the democratic system and ought to be accepted. Likewise, the Model Code of Conduct and other guidelines issued by the Election Commission are necessary pains to ensure that executive influence over voters is kept to a minimum and the playing field, during the election period, remains level. In any case, it sounds strange for a Union government and the Election Commission that have refrained from holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, for nearly five years, to express strong concerns regarding governance downtime.

Legal concerns

In *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India* (1994), the Supreme Court declared that the States have an independent constitutional existence, and they have as important a role to play in the political, social, educational and cultural life of the people as the Union. The Constitution provides for a specific tenure for the State Legislatures, which is five years from the date appointed for the first meeting. A similar provision also exists for the tenure of the Union Parliament. Therefore, the introduction of a common election process would necessarily require alteration of the existing duration of a number of State Legislatures. This would go against the express language in the Constitution and be in violation of the view expressed by the Supreme Court in the *S.R. Bommai* case. Therefore, any such action that impinges upon the independent constitutional existence of a State by altering the duration of its Legislative Assembly would naturally be anti-federal and unconstitutional.

The next test would be that of bias, exclusion, and inequality adopted in this exercise. A cursory glance of the website created by the High Level Committee, intended to be a repository of all relevant information on the subject and act as a platform for interaction from all stakeholders, shows that it is available only in English and Hindi. This is to say that such a landmark consultation process is being conducted in one of the 22 official languages of the Union.

Finally, there is a question that goes to the root of the independence of the Election Commission, a constitutional body endowed with autonomy to take independent decisions regarding elections. Similar to demonetisation, when the Reserve Bank of India was kept in the dark, the Election Commission seems to be a silent spectator to the entire process undertaken by the High Level Committee set up by the Union government.

Can One Nation, One Election be stopped?

In the U.K., home of the common law jurisprudence, Parliament is supreme. However, the Indian constitutional architecture is structured differently granting higher courts inherent and broad powers of judicial review when executive actions transgress the fields assigned to them. The stage is set for a constitutional showdown in the not-too-distant future – one that will raise the question of whether constitutional courts, especially the Supreme Court, will enter the political thicket. At the moment, there seems to be no alternative but to enter and wade through the thicket, if the constitutional architecture of this country is to be preserved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ram temple

A purely religious event was hijacked and politicised by the BJP keeping in mind the Lok Sabha elections ("Consecration today; PM, priests to lead ceremonies," Jan. 22). Anyone opposing this politicisation was branded "anti-Hindu". This is nothing but exploitation of people's religious sentiments and faith.
S.R. Krishnamurthy
Chennai

It is unfortunate that the Opposition chose to boycott the ceremony. They have given the BJP an opportunity to brand them "anti-Hindu" before the general elections. The Hindi heartland is already not in favour of them. Now their boycott is adding fuel to the fire. The Opposition cannot win if they have no clear narrative. An anti-Modi agenda alone isn't going to fetch them votes. It looks like the elections are a done deal for the NDA.
S. Seshadri
Chennai

The BJP has successfully accomplished the task of constructing the Ram temple. Besides adding a historic chapter to the religious books, it has made an indelible imprint in its political journey. The party will undoubtedly go the whole hog now to reap the political dividends from this important event.
Johan Dhanakumar
Chennai

Antibiotics resistance

The irrational prescription of the 'Watch' group antibiotics, the stress on antibiotic prophylaxis, the fact that patients do not complete their antibiotics course, the excess use of antibiotics in livestock and fish farming, and over-the-counter sale of antibiotics have all contributed to the rise of drug-resistant infections ("Data Point: India among nations overusing "Watch" group antibiotics," Jan. 22). Discovering and developing novel classes of antibiotics is challenging. It can often take several years before they are made available in the market. Stringent measures must be taken to curb the misuse of these drugs.
Biju C. Mathew
Thiruvananthapuram

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Fired up and plugged in

Karthik Ganesan

is a Fellow and Director, Research Coordination, the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Tarun Mehta

is a Research Analyst at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

As India throttles to become the fastest-growing economy in the coming years, it will have to grow in the wake of a global agreement at COP-28 to phase down unabated coal. In this critical decade, the spotlight will be on how India decarbonises its power sector while ensuring economic development and energy security.

As the seventh most-vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change, India has been at the forefront of climate action – it has reduced overall fossil fuel subsidies by 76% between FY14 and FY22 and is priming the domestic industry to nearly triple its installed renewable power generation capacity by 2030. Despite significant climate action and ambition, coal-based power plants continue to provide the base power load support of over 100 GW on most days of the year. Due to rapidly increasing electricity demand, any future predictions of India's reliance on coal are laden with uncertainty. The country has affirmed that while it continues to rapidly expand renewable energy, coal will remain a vital energy source till it reaches the status of a developed country in a geopolitically turbulent world.

But to keep the economy powered while decarbonising, it will have to use its existing assets better, while simultaneously limiting exposure to new coal assets and investing in energy storage capabilities to integrate a higher share of renewable energy in the power grid. Four steps are critical for this.

First, managing thermal plant outages better during peak demand periods. In 2023, ~38 GW of coal-based power plants across India witnessed unplanned outages or were not called on to generate power during the top 10% peak demand days. Improved availability and utilisation of existing plants can mitigate the need for investments in new(er) thermal assets to meet peak power demand in the medium term. This will require power utilities to forecast demand better to anticipate outages, plan maintenance and keep plants online during peak days. This must be aided by regulations that incentivise plants' availability during peak periods.

Second, increasing the flexibility of the existing coal fleet. To seamlessly integrate more renewable energy (RE) into the grid, thermal plants that typically produce a steady load of power must learn to follow the vagaries of the wind and the sun. This can be done by making our existing coal plants more flexible – reducing their minimum power load and improving ramp rate capabilities. The Central Electricity Authority of India has already proposed modifying/retrofitting ~92% of the current coal and lignite-based capacity to enable it. Such a phased plan must be premised on minimising grid emissions and RE curtailment for maintaining demand-supply balance. Further, such flexible services must be adequately compensated. For instance, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and regulators in States such as Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have devised payment mechanisms to remunerate power plant owners for one-time retrofitting costs and escalation in related operation and maintenance costs. Other States must follow suit, thereby resulting in a wider pool of plants available to help reduce the burden on a handful of plants today.

Third, incentivising payment for storage services beyond the supply of energy units. When RE has to contribute significantly to our demand, energy storage systems will have to support the power grid during hours when renewables are not available. This is the reason for many new 'round-the-clock' bids that combine RE and storage, where surplus generation of renewable energy is stored in a battery. However, standalone battery energy storage systems (BESS) will also be needed but they add a significant cost to each unit of electricity supplied. Entities that deploy batteries must then be compensated by utilities for the value they bring to grid operation. For example, numerous studies indicate that BESS increases RE integration into the grid and reduces operational stress on the thermal fleet.

Fourth, indigenising supply chains for battery storage and RE technologies. Being the lifeline of the power system, coal economy is an important source of domestic value addition, job creation and furthering India's '*atmanirbhar*' aspirations. In FY22, India produced coal worth ~₹1.5 lakh crore, providing much-needed revenues to Central and State governments and an additional ~₹27,000 crore to the Indian Railways. At the current pace of installation, a mere ₹7,000 crore is the domestic value added to manufacture solar modules. The PLI scheme has given fresh life to indigenisation efforts and committed ~₹19,000 crore to solar manufacturing. In this decade, these investments can support exports and domestic value additions of over ₹75,000 crore (at current prices). Boosting domestic value and job creation in clean energy would strongly mitigate concerns associated with disruptions in the global supply chain and loss of livelihoods in the economy.

While the attention on the global stage focuses solely on decarbonisation, domestic energy security will drive policymaker focus and investments in India. With falling renewable energy and storage prices, decision-makers need a transparent assessment of the long-term opportunity costs of locking ourselves into conventional power sources to meet near-term needs. They must prioritise affordable electricity for all segments of the economy. This will then become the plank for more aggressive decarbonisation commitments in the years ahead.

Focus on energy security will likely drive India's decade of decarbonisation and renewable energy

The Batadrava-BJP connect

The saffron party's hold on Assam's most important spiritual centre remains firm

STATE OF PLAY

Rahul Karmakar
rahul.karmakar@thehindu.co.in

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi probably had a feeling of déjà vu when he was not allowed to enter Batadrava Than, the birthplace of Assam's most revered spiritual icon, on January 22, around the time Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the '*Pran Pratishtha*' ceremony for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. In December 2015, he was allegedly turned away from western Assam's Barpeta Satra on a day he launched the Congress campaign for the 2016 Assembly elections. A few weeks later, former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched his election campaign for the BJP from the Uttar Kamalabari Satra in Majuli.

There are an estimated 900 *satras*, monasteries of the neo-Vaishnav order, across Assam and beyond. Barpeta and Uttar Kamalabari are two of the foremost among them but they are not on the same level of spirituality or reverence as the Batadrava Than. And Batadrava has been more than just an exalted place of worship for the adherents of the Ekasarana Dharma, a neo-Vaishnav monolithic form of spiritualism propagated by 15th-16th Century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva.

Patronised primarily by Ahom and Koch rulers, Sankaradeva and his disciples set up the *satras*, which lorded over swathes of land donated by local kings, elites, and devotees. After India's independence, specifically after the creation of Bangladesh, many *satras* became central to the issue of "illegal immigrants", a staple of electoral politics in Assam since a violent agitation of 1979-98 to eject non-citizens from the State. The alleged encroachment of *satra* land by Bengal-origin or migrant Muslims became a rallying point for the BJP, which started building up momentum steadily before coming to power in 2016 in alliance with two regional parties.

In 2021, the government headed by Himanta Biswa Sarma formed a three-member inquiry commission headed by Asom Gana Parishad MLA Pradip Hazarika with BJP legislators Mrinal Saikia and Rupak Sarma as its members. The interim report was submitted to the Chief Minister on December 3, 2022. The report said about 1,900 hectares of land belonging to 303 *satras* were under encroachment, mostly by the migrant Muslims. The "systematic" land-grabbing, the panel noted, began before independence when the Muslim League formed the government in undivided Assam in the late 1930s. It also said 250 *satras* disappeared over the past few decades because their abbots and inmates were forced to leave by the encroachers. The report further said 74% of the encroachment on *satra* lands was in the minority-dominated Barpeta district and flagged Batadrava for special attention.

The government did not stop at evicting the encroachers from the *satra* lands. Revenue Minister Jogen Mohan told the Assembly in March 2023 that the government freed 99% of the *satra* land within three months. These squatters were among 8.57 lakh people illegally occupying government, forest, wetland, railway, and *satra* land across Assam, he said. A year before the 2021 Assembly elections, the government declared an annual grant of ₹10 lakh per *satra* and ₹2.5 lakh per *namghar*, a community prayer hall used by the followers of Sankaradeva. An average of 70 households are associated with a *namghar*, and the patrons of the *namghars* are usually associated with one *satra* or the other. This translates into a sizeable share of voters in an increasingly polarised Assam.

It was, thus, not surprising for Home Minister Amit Shah in February 2021 to lay the foundation stone for a ₹188-crore project to develop Batadrava into a major religious and cultural tourism centre. Apart from the optics, it sent a message that the BJP means business as the "saviour of Hinduism" from the "ghuspethiye" aka Bangladeshi people. Weeks before his high-profile programme, the Assam unit of Congress launched a bus yatra as part of their Assam Boson Ahok (come, let us save Assam) campaign from Batadrava, underscoring its political importance.

Almost three years later, Rahul Gandhi's yatra hit a rumble strip at Batadrava after its management committee rescheduled his preprogrammed visit to the '*than*' on January 22 to after 3 p.m., given the Ram Temple consecration. Mr. Gandhi said the Batadrava authorities were pressured by people at the top, meaning the Chief Minister. But his inability to visit the religious site at his convenience conveyed that the BJP wants it known it holds the copyright on key places of worship that can swing Hindu sentiments in its favour.

Government guarantees on a rising trend in 12 States

In Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, govt. guarantees as a % of GDP have crossed the 10% mark

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

As a State grows, the need to fund infrastructure projects increases. The Public Sector Enterprises which are executing these projects need funds. While many of them get funds within the State budget, some of the projects require huge investments, for which PSEs turn to banks and financial institutions. The State government stands as guarantor for such loans, otherwise the banks may not be willing to extend loans to such entities.

Given the guarantee, the banks are happy to give loans, often without even doing due diligence about the commercial viability of such projects. Because of the very low risk attached to such loans, they also most often do not monitor the projects they finance. As long as the PSEs are financially sound and servicing the debt, this is a win-win situation. However, if the PSEs turn loss-making, and if the banks invoke the guarantees, it is the State government which will be in trouble. This was the concern that the RBI's Working Group on State Government Guarantees had expressed in its report released last week.

Chart 1 shows the outstanding State-wise guarantees issued as a share of each State's Gross Domestic Products at the end of March in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. For instance, for Andhra Pradesh, the outstanding guarantees as a share of its GDP grew from around 4% to over 10% in the said period. In fact, the guarantees are on an increasing trend in 11 other States – Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

In Sikkim and Telangana, along with Andhra Pradesh, the share of outstanding government guarantees as a share of their GDPs was above the 10% mark at the end of 2022. Whereas it was around 8-9% in the case of Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh. The Working Group has asked governments to have a fixed ceiling on the guarantees issued and make it uniform across all States. The Group has also recommended the States assess risks attached to each guarantee and assign weights based on the sector and the borrower's past record.

A look at how the States used to finance their Gross Fiscal Deficit shows that two decades back, the National Small Saving Fund (NSSF) was the biggest source of financing. However, due to policy changes, now market borrowings are the major source. **Chart 2** shows this transition between 2005-06 and 2022-23.

While the share of banks and financial institutions in the financing of States' gross fiscal deficit has remained low, in terms of absolute numbers they are still considerable as the quantum of loans given by the banks to the States has zoomed over the years. **Chart 3** shows the loans given by the banks directly to State governments and also to State enterprises that have guarantees from the government. As can be seen from the chart, both these figures have surged in the recent past.

As the loans are guaranteed by the State, if they are not honoured, the banks may not give fresh loans to the enterprises and guarantees given by the government will fall in value. To avoid that, the Working Group has come up with some recommendations. Having a uniform ceiling for incremental guarantees issued during a year at 5% of the revenue receipts or 0.5% if the GSDP of the State, whichever is less, is the major criterion. The riskiness of the borrowers and projects involved should be considered. A State Finance Department unit should be set up to capture all guarantees and monitor them continually. All States should report in a similar format so that it is easier to oversee.

State of affairs

The charts are based on the report of the Working Group on State Government Guarantees published by the Reserve Bank of India

Chart 1 : Outstanding State-wise guarantees issued as a share of GSDP (in %) for FY18 (■), FY19 (■), FY20 (■), FY21 (■) and FY22 (■)

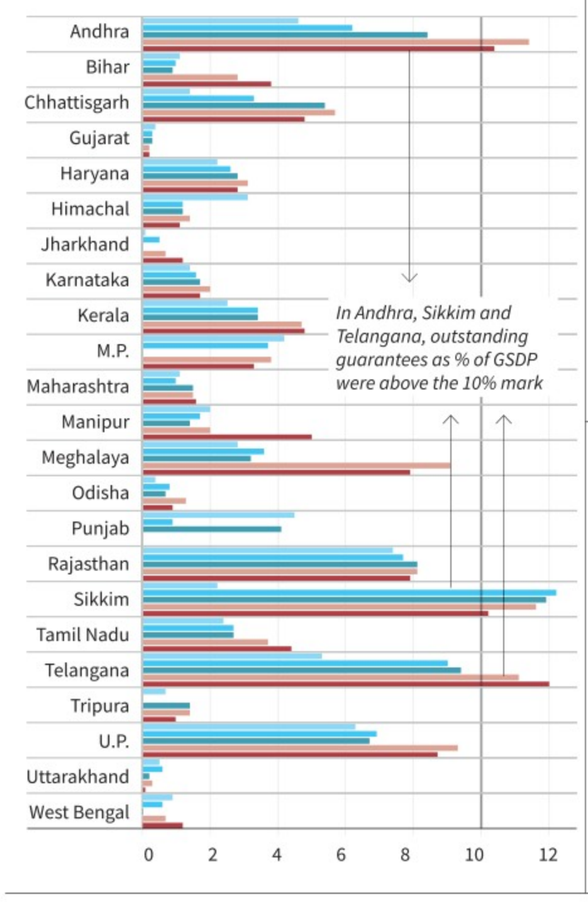


Chart 2 : The chart shows sources used to finance States' Gross Fiscal Deficit (in %)

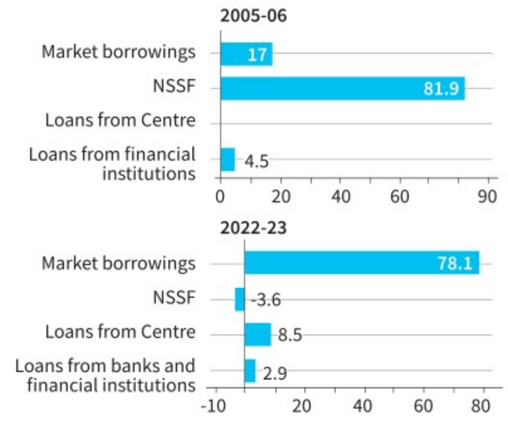
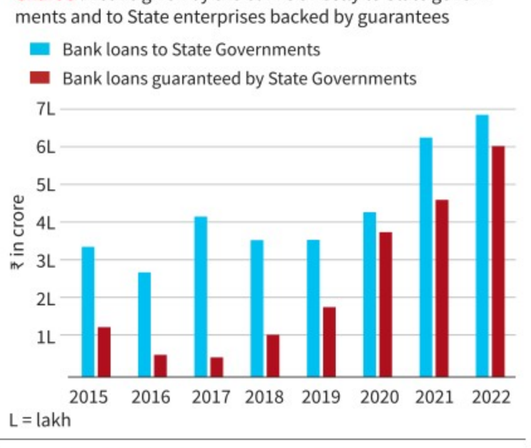


Chart 3 : Loans given by the banks directly to State governments and to State enterprises backed by guarantees



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1974

Peking establishes its rights

From V. T. Sambandan

SINGAPORE. Jan. 21.

By occupying the Paracels Islands after a battle with the South Vietnamese forces, the People's Republic of China has established its strategic presence in the South China Sea which links the Indian Ocean with the Pacific and the Far East. The ownership of this chain of islands, running about 750 miles north-south and east of Da Nang (South Vietnam) and about 175 miles south of the Chinese Island of Hainan, has been disputed over a long period. When the French occupied Indo-China it belonged to the French. During the World War II it was occupied by Japan and later turned over to China at the 1951 Peace Conference. Since then South Vietnam, as successor to the French and Taiwan as "representing" mainland China, have both claimed sovereignty over it. In the 1950's the Philippines too had claimed it.

On Jan. 11, the Chinese Foreign Ministry, protested against the Saigon authorities' action in adding ten islands of the group to South Vietnam. On Jan. 15, according to the New China News Agency, Saigon sent warships to the area leading to the incidents. On Jan. 19, Chinese ships, numbering over ten, took over the territory in a two-day battle.

This is the first time that China has taken naval action against a disputed territory. Its last major military action was along the Soviet border in 1969, apart from the war against India.

The Paracels Islands are said to have oil, mineral and guano resources.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1924

Sudden illness

(REUTER'S AGENCY.)

LONDON. Jan. 22.

Lenin is dead.

LONDON. Jan. 22.

The Soviet Communique states Lenin died in the hills near Moscow. His health had recently considerably improved, but his condition suddenly worsened last night and he lost consciousness dying of paralysis of respiratory centres. The All Russian Council will continue Lenin's work and says the Soviet Government stands firm at its post, watchful over the conquests of the proletarian revolution. The body will lie in state in Moscow till the funeral on January 26th.

From Page One

Rituals done, PM calls it a historic day

Calling upon the "critics" of the temple to introspect, while describing the temple as a symbol of peace and harmony, the Prime Minister said there was an apprehension that if the Ram Temple was built it would lead to unrest, but that "they failed to understand the purity of India's society."

"Ram Temple is a symbol of peace, patience, harmony, and maturity of Indian society. Today, I call upon those people to rethink their perspective," Mr. Modi said to the audience, which comprised prominent people from all walks of life, including seers who had been involved in the Ram Temple movement, industrialists like Mukesh Ambani and his family, film stars like Rajinikanth and Amitabh Bachchan, as well as Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.

Spirit of service

Speaking on the inclusiveness and spirit of service of the characters in the Ramayana and the life of Lord Ram, the Prime Minister said there was much to learn from them. "We need to learn the value of service and loyalty from Lord Hanuman, fortitude from Adivasi mother Shabari who had the conviction that 'Ram would arrive', while the Nishad Raj had helped Ram and Sita cross the Ganga in his boat," he said. "Even the smallest of creatures such as squirrels had contributed to the construction of the Ram Setu, while the Jatayu had taken on Ravana to save Sita despite knowing he would be defeated," Mr. Modi said.

He also tendered an apology, seeking forgiveness from Lord Ram, on the centuries of wait till today's consecration, citing that perhaps there might have been "deficiencies in our efforts for it to be so".

The Prime Minister added that there is a question over what is to follow after the consecration of the Ram Temple. "This grand Ram temple will be a witness to the rise of a magnificent India. It teaches us that if the goal is proven true, if it is born out of collective and organised strength, then achieving that goal is not impossible. We should take a pledge to build a capable, developed, magnificent, and divine India. It is our time; we have reached here after centuries of waiting; this is the step towards nation building," he said.

The Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which was formed for the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, had also nominated 16 other people apart from Mr. Modi as *yajmans* for the ceremony. They included Domraja of Kashi; Anil Chaudhary, the keeper of the flame at Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi; Mahadev Gaikwad, considered the representative of the 315 nomadic and 198 denotified tribes; and Anil Mishra and his wife Usha Mishra, termed the "*pradhan yajman*" of the consecration rituals.

Later, Mr. Modi went to the Kuber Tila, located in the southwestern part of the temple complex which houses an ancient temple of Lord Shiva, to offer prayers.

The place is considered significant for Hindu-Muslim unity and a key site during the First War of Independence. He also met with workers who were involved in the construction of the Ram Temple.

The temple, built in the Nagara style, is based on a design by Chandrakant Sompura and his son Ashish, and the idol of the Lord Rama deity has been sculpted by Arun Yogiraj of Mysuru.

Chinese vessel in Indian Ocean, 'heading' to Male

Amid repeated messages from New Delhi, Colombo in December 2023 announced a year-long moratorium on foreign research vessels visiting Sri Lankan waters. *Xiang Yang Hong 03*, which was scheduled to call at a Sri Lankan port this year, is now reportedly heading to the Maldives.

The development comes after India and the U.S., over the last couple of years, voiced concern with Sri Lankan authorities over the visits of Chinese vessels to the island's ports for research purposes.

Reports of the Chinese vessel's arrival in Maldives later this month coincide with the visit of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) Vice-Minister of the International Department to the Maldives. The CCP's Sun Haiyan called on President Mohamed Muizzu on Monday, less than a fortnight after the Maldivian leader's return from China, after a five-day state visit during which he agreed to "elevate" strategic ties with the Maldives. It comes even as his government consistently demands that Indian troops be withdrawn from the Maldives. On his return from Beijing, Mr. Muizzu announced a March 15 deadline for the removal of Indian soldiers, while New Delhi has said the discussion on the matter is "ongoing".

The development also comes days after the Foreign Ministers of India and Maldives met in Uganda, on the sidelines of the Non-Alignment Movement [NAM] summit. Following the meeting, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on X that he held a "frank conversation" with his Maldivian counterpart Moosa Zameer, who said, "We exchanged views on the ongoing high-level discussions on the withdrawal of Indian military personnel." *The Hindu* has requested the Maldivian Foreign Ministry for a comment on the Chinese vessel's reported visit and is yet to receive a response.

Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean began in 2008 under the garb of anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and the country has since maintained presence in the region, even deploying nuclear attack submarines (SSNs) on occasion.

Rahul stopped from visiting shrine; Morigaon meet banned

Congress leader was stopped when he was around 17 km from shrine of saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva; he was barred from holding a meeting and march in Morigaon district, citing law-and-order issues; yatra reaches Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra was disrupted in Assam on Monday, when the police prevented him from visiting Batadrava Than, a shrine and birthplace of the 15th-16th century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva, who propagated a neo-Vaishnav sect. Similarly, he was prevented from holding a meeting in Morigaon district of the State, citing law-and-order concerns.

The yatra later entered Meghalaya, where Mr. Gandhi addressed a rally.

High drama prevailed on the ninth day of the yatra as Mr. Gandhi and his supporters were stopped by the police in Nagaon district of Assam, on the way to Batadrava Than.

A video showed police personnel blocking Mr. Gandhi's path and he was heard asking them why he was not being allowed in. "I was invited there on 11th [January]. I think they have been pressured... They have been obviously ordered from the top. They don't want me to go," he said.

Mr. Gandhi had left for the monastery at Batadrava early in the morning, but was stopped at Haibargaon, around 17 km away, prompting him and other party leaders to sit on a dharna.

Halted on the way: Rahul Gandhi with party leaders and supporters after he was not allowed to visit the Batadrava Than in Nagaon district of Assam, on Monday. PTI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh told presspersons, "We managed to convince the local authorities to let our local MP Gaurav Gogoi and local MLA Sibamoni Bora enter the shrine, which showed democracy was still alive. Rahul*ji* left after two hours of squatting outside the barricade, interacting with the people." Mr. Gogoi said the shrine holds immense importance for the followers of neo-Vaishnavism.

"...Rahul Gandhi was denied permission to visit Batadrava Than by the police citing law and order and pre-scheduled programme. The fact is the opposite because there was no programme taking place," he wrote on X.

Mr. Gogoi said the shrine was empty and a rumour was spread that a law-and-order situation might arise. "Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma brought a black day to the Batadrava Than and the legacy of Sankaradeva," he said.

The managing committee of Batadrava Than on Sunday announced that they would not allow the Congress leader to visit the shrine before 3 p.m. after Mr. Sarma at a press conference requested Mr. Gandhi not to visit before the Ram Temple consecration.

Cancelled meet

Further tensions awaited the yatris later in the day, as Mr. Gandhi was barred from holding a street-corner meeting and padayatra in Morigaon district. In a letter to the district Congress unit, District Commissioner Devashis Sarma said the authorities apprehend anti-social activities as the yatra and the Ram Lalla *Pran Pratishtha* would happen simultaneously.

"This negates all earlier permissions accorded by the administration for holding any public meeting/padayatra in Morigaon district," the letter said.

The police cited Mr. Gandhi's Z+ security for the advice to avoid unscheduled stoppages by him and his entourage.

In the evening, the yatra entered Meghalaya, where Mr. Gandhi addressed a rally in Nongpoh.

He said the ideology of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP has destroyed the idea of Manipur. "The politics of hatred and violence had torn Manipur apart, causing hundreds of deaths and thousands of people to lose their property. It's a complete tragedy," Mr. Gandhi said.

On Sunday, the party had said Mr. Ramesh's car and mediapersons accompanying the yatra were attacked by BJP workers in Assam's Sonitpur district.

(With inputs from PTI)

SP president comes out in support of Rahul Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday asked what could be a greater injustice than preventing anyone from being able to see their God.

His comments came as former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, during the course of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, was prevented from visiting Batadrava Than, a shrine and the birthplace of 15th-16th century saint-reformer Srimanta Sankaradeva, who propagated a neo-Vaishnavite sect.

The Congress saw Mr. Yadav's post on X, formerly Twitter, as a positive sign, considering that seat-sharing talks between the two allies had come to a grinding halt after three rounds of discussion.

Senior SP leader and Rajya Sabha member Ram Gopal Yadav, while speaking about the negotiations, said the two sides had walked half the length and a few more steps remained.

The Samajwadi Party has conceded seven seats to the Rashtriya Lok Dal and is offering fewer than 10 to the Congress. The Congress has refused the offer.

Sources said the top Congress leadership would reach out to Mr. Yadav in a few days for further talks.

Ministry rushes team to Manipur; Meitei MLAs call for 'positive action'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Monday rushed a team of officials led by A.K. Mishra, Adviser (Northeast), to Manipur following the fresh spate of killings and violence in the State.

Meanwhile, 35 Meitei MLAs in Manipur passed a resolution that they will take action in consultation with the public if the "Government of India is unable to take any positive action".

The Home Ministry team, which includes Intelligence Bureau (IB) officials, met Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. It will meet various civil society groups from the tribal Kuki-Zo community and the Meitei community. The officials are also expected to meet representatives of the Arambai Tenggol, a radical armed Meitei group that has been accused by the Kuki-Zo groups of instigating violence. A Ministry official said the team was sent after assessing the ground situation.

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh chairs a meeting in Imphal on Sunday with representatives of 10 parties. ANI

The team will also meet Kuki-Zo groups and are expected to broker an amicable solution between the two communities.

The CM had skipped the North Eastern Council (NEC) meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Shillong on January 19. On Sunday, he questioned the efficacy of the Central security forces in curtailing violence in the border town of Moreh.

Speaking on the occasion of Manipur Statehood Day, Mr. Singh said, "The killers of Chingtham Anand, the SDPO [Sub-Divisional Police Officer] of Moreh, have been arrested. But if the Central forces fail to protect the lives and properties of the people of Manipur, they should go back." In the past week, at least six people, including two police personnel, have been killed.

The team, led by Mr. Mishra, is also negotiating with the Kuki insurgent groups that are part of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact and have been demanding a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo-inhabited areas in the hill districts of Manipur. Meitei groups have demanded the revocation of the pact.

The Meitei MLAs passed a resolution that the "SoO agreements with the armed militant groups, and the immunity it provides to these groups from a firm reaction from Central forces, is the main cause of the never-ending cycle of violence". It added that the SoO agreement with other militant groups who also indulge in anti-State activities should not be extended beyond February 29, when the agreement comes to an end.

It added that in many sensitive areas, the Assam Rifles were not responsive and remained mute spectators when unarmed civilians (particularly farmers) were being indiscriminately fired upon.

The resolution added that the public's faith in the forces had been shattered.

13 arrested as clash breaks out at Naya Nagar near Mumbai

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

Unverified videos of the violence, showing the mob attacking the vehicles, went viral on social media

Thirteen persons were arrested after a group of men in vehicles bearing saffron flags, were allegedly attacked in the Naya Nagar area of Mira-Bhayandar near Mumbai in Thane district, a day ahead of the *Pran Pratishtha* ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

A senior police official said the clash between members of two different communities erupted around 11 p.m. on Sunday, when the men drove through the locality shouting religious slogans. They were attacked by a mob from the neighbourhood, he added.

Unverified videos of the violence, showing the mob attacking the vehicles with iron rods and stones, went viral on social media.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis released a statement on 'X' which said, "I received detailed information on what happened in Naya Nagar in Mira Bhayandar last night. I was constantly in touch with Madhukar Pandey, Commissioner of Police, Mira-Bhayandar till 3.30 a.m. The police were instructed to take strict action against the culprits. Thirteen have been arrested so far and detailed analysis of CCTV footage is under way to identify and arrest others involved too. There will be zero tolerance for anyone who attempts to disturb the law and order situation in Maharashtra."

Additional forces have been deployed in the area to prevent any further untoward incidents.

SC to take up Uddhav faction's plea against Speaker's decision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a petition filed by Shiv Sena Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray (UBT) leader Sunil Prabhu against the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's decision to dismiss disqualification petitions against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and supporting MLAs, while holding the Shinde faction as the "real" Shiv Sena.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued notice to Mr. Shinde and listed the case after two weeks.

"The Speaker heard and decided the disqualification proceedings based on the judgment by the Supreme Court... The Shinde group has approached the High Court to further delay the case ahead of the elections..." senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mr. Prabhu, submitted.

The Speaker's decision came nearly two years after Mr. Thackeray's camp moved disqualification petitions against Mr. Shinde and his supporting legislators under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution in June 2022. The Speaker had held that since the 'Shinde faction' was the real political party, the UBT faction's allegations that the Shinde faction violated the whip could not be sustained.

The disqualification petitions filed by the UBT faction argued that the Shinde faction had illegally passed a resolution in June 2022 re-appointing Mr. Eknath Shinde as the Shiv Sena Legislative Party leader and Bharat Gogawale as the Chief Whip.

A five-judge Constitution Bench, last year, directed the Speaker to decide the disqualification petitions within a "reasonable time".

SC to hear if Centre encroached on legislative domain of Punjab

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine if all border States have to be treated alike while demarcating the area of jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF), a Central unit.

The court was hearing a dispute raised by Punjab against the Centre. The top court said it would determine if the Centre had encroached on the legislative domain of Punjab.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud fixed the third week of April for hearing the suit filed by Punjab accusing the Centre of virtually stripping the State and its police of its powers.

The court was hearing a dispute raised by Punjab against the Centre. PTI

The Constitution gives the State control over the police and of maintaining public order.

Punjab has challenged the constitutional validity of a notification issued by the Centre in October 2021 extending the reach of the BSF to 50 km by invoking Section 139 of the BSF Act, 1968. The provision authorises the Centre to confer powers and duties on members of the BSF in respect of any Central Acts. The purpose of the provision was to gain more control on trans-border crimes.

The Centre has argued that the extension of jurisdiction had been made to better police crimes involving illegal entry into the country and offences under the Passport Act.

Prayers and festivities: (from left) The gathering at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya ahead of the consecration on Monday; after the ceremonies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the workers who built the temple; cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar on the temple premises; and security personnel patrol the Sarayu river in the temple town. ANI/PTI/AFP

Jan. 22 will be etched in history as key moment: V-P

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday congratulated the nation on the Ram Temple's consecration in Ayodhya, adding that it was gratifying to witness the moment marking the reawakening of national pride.

Expressing heartfelt wishes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the 11-day rigorous *anushthan*, Mr. Dhankhar said that January 22 would be etched in history as a defining moment of "tryst with divinity in our civilisational trajectory".

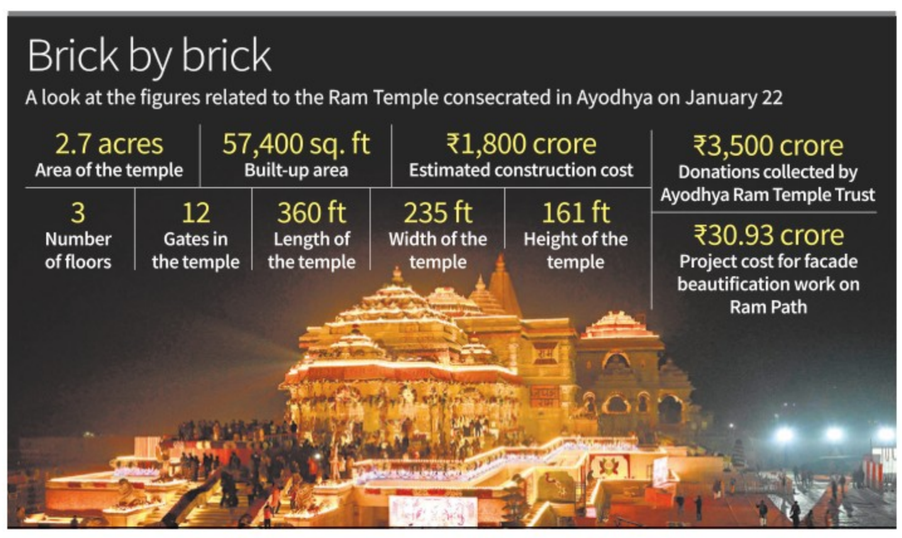
"Gratifying to witness celebratory moment marking reawakening of national pride all over," he said in a statement issued on Monday morning.

On this day, he said, "we must resolve to inculcate Lord Ram's values of integrity, forgiveness, bravery, sincerity, humility, care, and compassion as a way of life to bring about enlightenment, peace, harmony, and righteousness all around".

With no iron or steel, Ayodhya temple is a study in sandstone

The edifice will eventually be of three storeys; each floor will be 20 feet high and will have 392 pillars and 44 gates; about 70% of the complex is expected to be maintained as a green area; nearly 600 existing trees are preserved in this belt

Press Trust of India
AYODHYA



The Ayodhya temple, consecrated on Monday, is a sprawling structure built with sandstones by overcoming engineering challenges and showing sensitivity to nature, say authorities connected with its construction.

Champat Rai, general secretary of the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, said the temple's construction was the result of "collective wisdom" of "some of the best brains in the country".

No iron or steel has been used in the construction of the grand structure. Stones have been sourced from the Bansi Paharpur area in Rajasthan. Images of Lord Hanuman and other deities, peacocks and flower patterns have been carved into them.

"The entire temple superstructure will eventually be three storeys – ground plus two floors," Mr. Rai said. Visitors will climb 32 steps from the eastern side to reach the main temple.

Nagara style

The temple complex, built in the traditional Nagara style, will be 380 feet long from east to west, 250 feet wide and 161 feet high. Each floor will be 20 feet high and will have 392 pillars and 44 gates.

During excavation, the ground was found unsuitable for laying the foundation stone, a challenge that engineers overcame by creating an "artificial foundation" over which the superstructure sits. Around the grand temple is a rectangular periphery called percota, a feature found in temples in South India, but not generally in the north, Mr. Rai had earlier said.

The percota will be 14 feet wide and the periphery spans 732 metres. The temple will be nestled within the percota periphery.

Ornate figures of elephants and lions and idols of Lord Hanuman and Garuda were installed at the main entrance earlier this month. They have also been made using sandstones from Bansi Paharpur.

"An ancient Shiva temple that exists on the Kuber Tila has also been revitalised," Mr. Rai said. After the consecration ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered prayers at the Kuber Tila.

A major part of the temple compound will be a green area with hundreds of trees. Mr. Rai underlined important features such as sewage and water treatment plants, a fire brigade post and a dedicated electricity line.

About 70% of the complex will be a green area. "The green area includes portions which are very dense and, in some segments, even sunlight hardly filters through," Mr. Rai had said. Nearly 600 trees are preserved in this belt.

More than 3,000 kg of flowers of over 20 varieties have been used to decorate the grand structure, says Sanjay Dhawalikar, head of the floral decoration team.

INBRIEF

Fifty instruments used during *Mangal Dhwani* at temple

Fifty traditional musical instruments from across the country were part of a devotional *Mangal Dhwani* during the consecration at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday. The orchestra was organised by Ayodhya's celebrated poet Yatindra Mishra, and the rendition was aided by the Sangeet Natak Akademi. The instruments included pakhawaj, flute and dholak from U.P., veena from Karnataka, and nadaswaram, tavil and mridangam from Tamil Nadu. PTI

Guests who attended event got book on Ayodhya, diya

A book on Ayodhya, a metal 'diya', a special 'mala' and a scarf bearing the name of Lord Ram are among the items that have been gifted to the guests who attended the consecration ceremony here on Monday. The gifts were given in a bag that had a graphic image of the new temple and Lord Ram. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra had earlier said that over 7,000 guests were invited to ceremony. The book is titled 'Ayodhya Dham – The Lord's Abode'. The guests also received a box of four laddoos, chips, revdi, cashew nuts and raisins. PTI

'Airport in Ayodhya handled around 100 chartered flights'

The Ayodhya airport handled nearly 100 chartered flights on Monday as many people flew into the city to attend the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple. Business Aircraft Operators Association president Captain R.K. Bali said that 100 chartered flights were booked by various individuals and entities to Ayodhya for Monday and out of them, nearly 50 were business jets. An executive at a leading private jet operator also said the airport handled nearly 100 flights. PTI

HC bans website for illegally selling 'Ram Mandir Prasad'

The Delhi High Court has banned a website which was illegally using the "Khadi Organic" name to promote its website as an "official website for sale of Ayodhya Ram Mandir prasad" on various platforms. "It appears that Defendants No. 1 and 2 are attempting to monopolise the consecration event by preying on the public's religious beliefs and deceiving them into transferring money to Defendants, using the Plaintiff's (Khadi India) goodwill," the order passed on Thursday said.

Stop fighting over petty issues, stay united: RSS chief

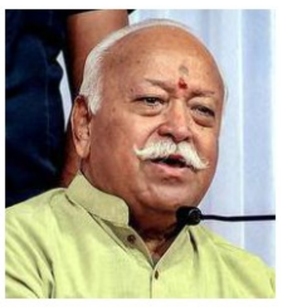
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday said people should stop fighting over petty issues and stay united.

Speaking after the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Mr. Bhagwat said the event marked the break of a new dawn in India, which will soon emerge as a power that will provide relief to the entire world during crisis.

Mr. Bhagwat, who took part in the ceremony along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and Governor Anandiben Patel, said he was always tasked with talking sense amid passionate conversations.

"In *Ram Rajya,* we will have to stop fighting over petty issues. We must move forward with truth, compassion, wisdom, discipline, and charity. *Ram Rajya* will come by giving up greed and by staying disciplined," Mr. Bhagwat said.



> We must move forward with truth, compassion, wisdom, discipline, and charity. *Ram Rajya* will come by giving up greed and by staying disciplined
>
> **MOHAN BHAGWAT**
> RSS chief

'A golden day'

Terming January 22 a *swarna diwas* (golden day), the RSS chief said Ram *Lalla* (child Ram) had come back to Ayodhya after 500 years. He paid tributes to all those who fought for the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Explaining why Lord Ram had left Ayodhya, Mr. Bhagwat said that it was due to the *kalah* (disputes) during his times. "Ayodhya is the name of a land where there is no strife, no doubts ... when strife happened, Ram left for 14 years of forest exile and came back after the strife was over. He came back after ending strife in the whole world," he said.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he said there was enough on earth for "everyone's needs but not for everyone's greed", highlighting the importance of charity.

"It should be our duty to serve people who are in crisis and pain. We must earn with both hands, keep whatever is needed for our own lives and donate everything else to charity," the RSS chief said.

Praising the Prime Minister, Mr. Bhagwat said he had always known Mr. Modi as someone who followed discipline.

Gunshots will not echo in the temple town any more: U.P. Chief Minister

Mayank Kumar
AYODHYA

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said the completion of the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya reflected a cultural renaissance in India.

"The *pran pratishtha* of Ram Lalla is a harmonious expression of our cultural conscience, marking a cultural renaissance in India. It is not merely a temple but the National Temple," he said addressing a gathering of guests invited for the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya.

In his address after the consecration ceremony, Mr. Adityanath said the Ram Temple is most likely the first such case in the world where the majority community of a nation had struggled for so long for the construction of a temple at the birthplace of their idol. He that on the historic moment, "every village and town in the country had transformed into Ayodhya".

Grand welcome: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath arriving at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday. PTI

In a reference to the 1990 police firing during Samajwadi Party rule in the State, killing more than a dozen *kar sevaks*, he said the streets of Ayodhya would not echo with gunshots any more or witness curfew. "Bullets will not be fired in Ayodhya, Sarayu *Maiya* [Sarayu river] will not be stained with blood. Curfew will not cause havoc in Ayodhya," he said, adding the consecration of Ram Lalla heralds the proclamation of the establishment of Ram Rajya.

"Heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to our respected PM Narendra Modi *ji*, for the realisation of our pledge, fulfilment of our resolution and bringing an end to our prolonged wait," he said.

Deve Gowda, Naidu attend consecration

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu attended the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday.

Mr. Gowda's Janata Dal (S) is now in alliance in with the BJP in Karnataka. He was accompanied by his son and former Karnataka Chief Minister, H.D. Kumaraswamy, and grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy at the event. Speaking after the ceremony, he said he considered himself "very lucky" to have witnessed the event.

Mr. Naidu, who was accompanied by Pawan Kalyan of the NDA ally Jana Sena Party, too said this was a "historic occasion".

While the ties between the BJP and the Janata Dal (S) are clear, it is still a piquant development with regard to the Ram Temple as Mr. Gowda became Prime Minister in 1996 after the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government fell in 13 days, failing to get enough numbers in the Lok Sabha with the Opposition parties opposing the BJP's agenda on the Ram Temple movement.

Mamata leads a rally for harmony, seeks BJP ouster

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee led a 'Sanhati rally' (rally for communal harmony) in Kolkata on the day of consecration of the Ram Temple on Monday and used the platform to throw a challenge at the BJP for the Lok Sabha election.

Ms. Banerjee accused the BJP of indulging in "politics over religion", and labelled the party "anti-women" for "omitting" Sita from its discourse on Ram. "They [BJP] talk about Ram, but what about Sita? We are worshippers of Goddess Durga, so they should not try to lecture us about religion," she said.

Seeking amity: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee leading the Sanhati rally in Kolkata on Monday. DEBASISH BHADURI

After offering prayers at the Kalighat temple, a gurdwara, a mosque and a church during her rally, she touched upon almost every issue, from the Centre's alleged denial of MGNREGA wages, to the NRC, and exhorted people to fight the BJP in the upcoming general election.

Himachal Cong. Minister attends Ram Temple event

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Deviating from party line, a Minister in the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, Vikramaditya Singh, and former Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) chief Nirmal Khatri were the two prominent leaders who attended the *pran pratishtha* (consecration ceremony) at Ayodhya on Monday.

The top Congress leadership stayed away from the consecration ceremony by calling it a "BJP/RSS event".

INBRIEF

Poachers kill female rhino in Kaziranga and steal its horn

Poachers struck at the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve after almost a year to kill an adult female rhino. Officials said the forest staff found the carcass in the Agaratoli Range of the 1,302 sq. km park around 8 a.m. on Monday. The rhino was shot and its horn was sawn off, they said. "The rhino is likely to have been killed on January 21 night. The post-mortem report is awaited and the Forest Department and the police have intensified their combing operations," an official said. Preliminary probe suggested the poachers reached the park after crossing the Brahmaputra by boat. The Agaratoli Range is on the southern bank of the river.

Odisha shifts 37 IAS officers ahead of Assembly election

Ahead of simultaneous general and Assembly polls, the Naveen Patnaik Government on Monday carried out a major reshuffle in State bureaucracy by shifting 37 IAS officers from their respective positions. The State government has changed district collectors of 19 out of 30 districts. The notable change is Ashish Thakare, the 2011-batch IAS officer, who has been transferred as district collector to Mayurbhanj from Keonjhar district. Vineet Bharadwaj was shifted from Mayurbhanj to Cuttack as a district collector. The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party had raised objections to the continuation of these two officers as district collectors saying their tenures had exceeded four years.

President urges youth to stay vigilant against misuse of technology

Murmu confers the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for the year 2024 on 19 children; she says India has an invaluable resource in the form of a large population of youth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Young talent: President Droupadi Murmu with Union Minister Smriti Irani during Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2024, at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

President Droupadi Murmu stressed the importance of technology for the educational and personal development of children, but cautioned against its misuse such as in the case of deep fakes and financial frauds.

"Social media, while a powerful tool for communication and awareness, is also misused for spreading rumours. Therefore, it is essential to stay vigilant and avoid such activities as a wrong step can jeopardise your future," Ms. Murmu said after giving away the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (national children awards) here.

She also noted that excessive use of devices such as mobile phones, laptops and television had led to a decline in physical activities among today's generation. "I urge the youth to at least engage in one sport," the President said.

Ms. Murmu said India had an invaluable resource in the form of a large number of youth. "This resource can play an important role in the progress of not only India but also the whole world. We have to make our youth capable for using technology. They have to be encouraged for innovation and entrepreneurship."

Awards presented

A total of 19 children were given the national children's awards for the year 2024 by the President. The 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' was given to nine boys and 10 girls in six categories, namely art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service and sports.

The awardees belong to 18 States and Union Territories, including two aspirational districts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with the awardees on Wednesday. Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani met and congratulated them.

The Central government confers the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) to children for their exceptional achievements. The awards are conferred upon the children in the age group of 5-18. Some of the awardees this year are Charvi A (sports) from Karnataka; Suhani Chauhan (innovation) from Delhi; Pendalaya Lakshmi Priya (art and culture) from Telangana; and R. Surya Prakash (sports) from Andhra Pradesh.

PM announces solar rooftop scheme for 1 crore households

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting on installing solar rooftop systems. ANI

Hours after the consecration of the Ram idol in Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing divine inspiration, publicly announced a scheme to electrify one crore households with solar electricity.

"Today, on the auspicious occasion of the consecration in Ayodhya, my resolve has been further strengthened that the people of India should have their own solar roof-top system on the roof of their houses. The first decision I have taken after returning from Ayodhya is that our government will launch 'Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana' with the target of installing rooftop solar on one crore houses. This will not only reduce the electricity bill of the poor and middle class, but will also make India self-reliant in the field of energy," Mr. Modi tweeted from his personal account.

No information on a timeline for such installations was given.

Accompanying the tweet were photographs of Mr. Modi convening a meeting with officials, including those from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. These included the department's Minister, R.K. Singh, and Secretary, Bhupinder Bhalla.

Muted growth

Currently, there is no Centrally compiled estimate of the number of households in India with rooftop solar installations.

What is known is that despite increases in installed solar capacity, the growth in the number of rooftop solar installations has been muted. *The Hindu* spoke to multiple analysts, and though none had definitive numbers, it is estimated that there are fewer than 10 lakh households with rooftop solar installations.

As of July 31, 2023, only 2.2 GW (1 GW is 1,000 MW) worth of rooftop installations were reportedly installed in Indian homes, according to information presented to the Lok Sabha.

Odisha govt. seeks urgent deployment of *kumki* elephants from Tamil Nadu

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has sought assistance of Tamil Nadu for making *kumki* elephants and mahouts available in the wake of worsening human-elephant conflict in the eastern State.

Odisha's Additional Chief Secretary (Forest and Environment) Satyabrata Sahu wrote a letter to his Tamil Nadu counterpart, Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary (Environment, Climate Change and Forest), stating: "In recent years, we have been facing significant challenges in mitigating human-elephant conflicts. Your help in getting trained *kumki* elephants would greatly assist us in addressing these conflicts effectively and humanely."

Skilled work: An elephant being escorted to a truck using a kumki near Pollachi in Tamil Nadu in July 2023. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In Odisha, there have been 230 encounters between humans and elephants in the financial year 2023-24.

High casualty number

In these encounters, 139 humans had been killed and 108 injured. Last financial year, there were 257 encounters in which 146 persons had been killed and 157 injured. As there are two more months left in the current financial year, the human casualties in elephant attacks could be an all-time high.

"*Kumki* elephants can be deployed strategically to help us to manage and drive wild elephants thereby reducing damage to crops, human habitations and the potential loss of both human and elephant lives. These elephants can also be deployed for forest patrolling and rescue operations," said the Odisha government officer.

T.N. model

Stating that Tamil Nadu has a successful and commendable programme in place, whereby *kumki* elephants are trained and utilised for wildlife conservation purposes, he requested the Tamil Nadu government to provide at least four *kumki* elephants for deployment in conflict-prone areas of Odisha.

"These elephants will serve as an invaluable asset to our State's wildlife organisation, aiding our efforts to minimise conflicts and safeguard both human and wildlife interests.

It is also requested that the mahouts taking care of those *kumki* elephants may also be deputed along with the elephants, for only initial handholding support to our local mahouts to get them acquainted with those *kumki* elephants," Mr. Sahu mentioned in the letter.

"In light of urgency and magnitude of the human-elephant conflict issue in Odisha, I would request your prompt consideration of this proposal. Your support will significantly contribute to our ongoing conservation efforts and prove instrumental in mitigating wildlife conflicts in Odisha," he further said in the letter.

Mobile hospital saves a life during consecration in Ayodhya, says official

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

BHISHM Cube of Project Arogya Maitri, an indigenous mobile hospital, deployed in Ayodhya on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BHISHM Cube of Project Arogya Maitri, a state-of-the-art indigenous mobile hospital deployed in Ayodhya, played a pivotal role in saving the life of Ramkrishna Srivastava, Dharmacharya Pramukh and member of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Mr. Srivastava suffered a heart attack, and a sudden medical emergency erupted during the consecration event on Monday, collapsing unconscious, said a senior health official.

The Indian Air Force's Rapid Response Team from the BHISHM Cube led by Wing Commander Manish Gupta evacuated Mr. Srivastava within minutes, capitalising on the critical golden hour – the first hour following a traumatic injury or medical event, which is crucial for successful emergency treatment.

Quality care

"Upon initial assessment, Mr. Srivastava was found to have very high blood pressure, recorded at 210/170 mmHg. The team diagnosed him correctly and treated him as per the appropriate protocol," said the health official.

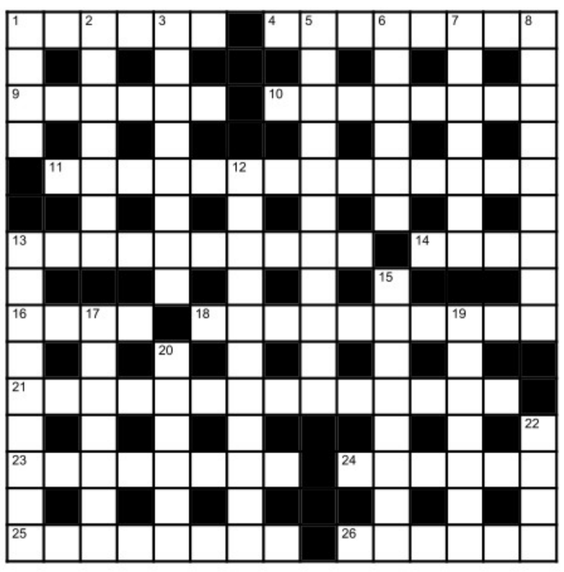
The BHISHM Cube's advanced facilities and skilled medical personnel ensured that Mr. Srivastava received hospital-quality care on-site, stabilising his condition.

CROSSWORD + 14078

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Beast using mink extracted from wild pack animal (6)
4 Mocking small crook mostly occupied stealing rupees (8)
9 Heart of military officer, say (6)
10 Letters from publicist urge Nevil (author) (8)
11 How long had Loki prepared to search everywhere? (4,4,3,3)
13 Orders on a desi app? They are identical (4,2,1,3)
14 Capital lost by Hindu God of wealth in transportation service (4)
16 Station's name on the radio (4)
18 Oil supplier set up clay building to store bitumen, essentially? (10)
21 Casually browsing, old women entertained by snakes dancing (6,8)
23 I reread novel depicting sex in private (8)
24 Study of frog, say? (6)
25 Spencer left play regularly behind closed doors (8)
26 Eye problem in author's work on Central Asians? (6)

Down

1 Basically ancient Nile's key hieroglyph! (4)
2 Exercise and run lifting block near a structure outdoors (7)
3 Registers in airport to scan crime (6,2)
5 Chairperson who's glued to a monitor? (5,6)
6 Man below Queen put up as interim ruler (6)
7 Flu can spread between boy and group of adherents (3,4)
8 Entertaining folks under 51 performing reviews (4,5)
12 Precisely how pistachio is found? (2,1,8)
13 Father's weapons - they should be updated and secure (9)
15 Writer's rejected after second fake composition (8)
17 It can't possibly include rules of Buddhist philosophy (7)
19 Became stronger by end of autumn, due to running around park (5,2)
20 Candy bar replaced by cold beverage (6)
22 Chiefly ocean resident carnivorous animal! (4)

SUDOKU

5				6		9	2	
		8					5	
	3	1			2			
		7		1	5			
1	4		9		7		6	3
			2	3		1		
			4			7	3	
	8					5		
	5	9		2				4

No.SS6046 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

B	A	T	H	I	N	D	A	■	N	A	B	L	U	S
I	■	R	■	N	■	O	■	F	■	G	■	I	■	M
S	P	O	U	T	E	D	■	A	L	L	E	G	R	O
E	■	U	■	E	■	G	■	L	■	O	■	N	■	L
C	I	G	A	R	■	E	R	S	T	W	H	I	L	E
T	■	H	■	P	■	T	■	E	■	■	■	T	■	N
■	■	■	O	R	T	H	O	P	A	E	D	I	C	S
E	■	E	■	E	■	E	■	R	■	V	■	C	■	K
V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	O	I	L	■	■	■
E	■	G	■	■	■	U	■	T	■	D	■	K	■	C
N	A	S	H	V	I	L	L	E	■	E	R	I	C	A
T	■	A	■	I	■	L	■	N	■	N	■	G	■	V
U	N	L	O	O	S	E	■	C	I	T	R	A	T	E
A	■	A	■	L	■	T	■	E	■	L	■	L	■	R
L	A	D	M	A	G	■	A	S	S	Y	R	I	A	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	7	5	2	3	6	8	4	1
4	3	2	1	5	8	7	6	9
8	6	1	9	4	7	3	2	5
1	5	6	7	2	3	4	9	8
3	8	4	5	1	9	6	7	2
7	2	9	8	6	4	1	5	3
2	9	7	6	8	1	5	3	4
6	4	8	3	9	5	2	1	7
5	1	3	4	7	2	9	8	6

FAITH

Proper focus of the senses

A Thirumangai Azhvar pasuram can be seen in the context of the tenth mantra of Apratiratha Sutra, to conclude that the mantra refers to the Vishnu temple in Thirukkurungudi. V.S. Karunakarachariar expanded an explanation given by HH Srimad Srimushnam Andavan for the pasuram.

Thirumangai Azhvar imagines himself to be a lovelorn girl Parakala Nayaki, who pines for Nambi, the Lord of Thirukkurungudi. Parakala Nayaki is tormented by five things – the moon, the ocean, the breeze carrying the fragrance of flowers, the cries of the andril bird separated from its male partner and the pleasing winter weather. She cannot sleep because of Manmatha's arrows aimed at her. Manmatha is said to use five flowers as arrows – asoka, lotus, jasmine, mango, and blue water lily. The lovely form of Nambi of Thirukkurungudi distresses Parakala Nayaki. The five forms of Nambi in Thirukkurungudi have made Parakala Nayaki yearn for Him. The pasuram says that His form has resulted in five good things happening to Parakala Nayaki. Her five senses are turned towards the Lord.

This is what those who seek moksha desire. The tenth mantra of Apratiratha Sukta's praise of five (*ishavah*) can be taken as a praise of five senses with proper focus, as seen in the case of Parakala Nayaki's love for Thirukkurungudi Nambi.

INBRIEF

Karur Vysya Bank Q3 net rises 43% on all-round growth

Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. (KVB) reported standalone net profit for the quarter ended December registered 43% year-on-year growth to ₹412 crore on inclusive growth from all business segments. Net interest income rose by 13% to ₹1,001 crore while net interest margin slid to 4.32% (4.36%). Cost of deposits climbed 99 bps to 5.25%, the lender said. Gross non-performing assets (NPA) improved by 112 bps to 1.58% while net NPAs stood at 0.42%, down 48 bps.

China said to move to support yuan as stock markets tumble

China's major state-owned banks moved to support the yuan on Monday, tightening liquidity in the offshore foreign exchange market while actively selling U.S. dollars onshore as equities slid, four sources with knowledge of the matter said. The goal was to prevent the yuan from falling too fast as China's A shares plunged, said one of the people, with the benchmark Shanghai Composite index posting its biggest one-day drop since April 2022 on Monday, down 2.7%. REUTERS

Tata Motors to start making EVs at Sanand unit from April

Tata Motors plans to commence production of electric vehicles (EVs) at the Sanand plant, acquired from Ford India, from April this year, as per a top company official. Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., a unit of Tata Motors, acquired the unit from Ford India for ₹725.7 crore in January last year. "We are planning to commence electric vehicle production at Sanand with Nexon EV from April," Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD Shailesh Chandra said. PTI

Sony calls off $10 bn. merger with Zee

Sony blames Zee for not meeting closing conditions within deadline and initiates arbitration proceedings seeking $90 million from Zee; the companies entered into a merger agreement in Dec. 2021 but could not consummate the deal even after more than two years of negotiations

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sony Pictures Networks India, which is now known as Culver Max Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. and its entity Bangla Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. (BEPL) on Monday called off the $10 billion merger deal with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) blaming ZEEL for not meeting closing conditions within the deadline. The Japanese company has also initiated arbitration proceedings against ZEEL and has sought a fee of $90 million from ZEEL for termination of the deal.

ZEEL on its part has denied the allegations and said it would take legal steps to protect its interests.

The companies had entered into an agreement for the merger dated December 22, 2021.

In a statement issued on Monday, Sony said, "Although we engaged in good faith discussions to extend the end date under the merger cooperation agreement, we were unable to agree upon an extension by the January 21 deadline. After more than two years of negotiations, we are extremely disappointed that closing conditions to the merger were not satisfied by the end dates."

Next step: ZEEL on its part has denied the allegations and said it would take legal steps to protect its interests. REUTERS

"We remain committed to growing our presence in this vibrant and fast-growing market and delivering world-class entertainment to Indian audiences," the company added.

ZEEL board on Monday took on record the communications received.

"ZEEL categorically denies all the assertions raised by Culver Max and BEPL on the alleged breaches under the terms of the MCA, including their claims for the termination fee," the company said in a filing with stock exchanges.

"The Board of Directors noted that all efforts and steps were taken by ZEEL in line with the Merger Cooperation Agreement. ZEEL has consistently worked towards the implementation of the scheme in the interest of shareholders..ZEEL also held several deliberations and good faith negotiations with Culver Max " ZEEL added.

Renault eyes higher sales growth in India

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Renault is planning to grow its India business by an additional 20% in 2024 to compensate for the slow growth it saw in the country in the earlier year, the French automaker said on Monday.

"This calendar year versus last year we are looking at an additional growth of 20%," Venkatram Mamillapalle, CEO, Renault India, told *The Hindu*. "Renault last year saw low volumes and the reason could be that we haven't refreshed our products. But this year we have added a lot of value and safety features to our models without extra cost," he added.

Venkatram Mamillapalle

Commenting on the market outlook, Mr. Mamillapalle said, SUVs were on a growth mode while sales of small segment cars was declining. "Reasons could be multiple as to why small car sales are on a decline. People's buying power has increased and used upper segment cars are playing a role in the entry segment instead of small cars," he said.

'Tech enterprises scouting for global talent to expand footprint'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tech enterprises are looking at newer geographies to scout for talent, to forge collaborations, expand their addressable markets and also to increase competitive advantage, industry body Nasscom said in a study in association with Indeed on Monday.

Companies are focusing on geographical expansion to explore talent in new markets, to gain competitive advantage and market access, Nasscom said.

Industry is also looking at expanding across Tier 2/3 cities in India as service-based organisations and GCCs (global capability centres) look to harness untapped innovation potential found in diverse talent pools in these emerging technology hubs.

While talent availability and cost savings are primary drivers for this phenomenon among smaller organisations with revenue less than ₹25 crore, for larger tech firms with a revenue of more than ₹ 250 crore, the key drivers were the availability of diverse skill sets and untapped talent, Nasscom added.

The study titled "Future of Work - Unravelling the Intricacies of New-Gen Work," argues that the workforce of the future is set to navigate an increasingly multi-generational landscape. Driven by fresh perspectives and innovative ideas, Generation Z, Millennials, and the future workforce will reshape strategies for employee engagement, retention, and acquisition, and set new benchmarks.

As the dynamics of job roles continue to evolve, the majority of organisations are adopting a hybrid and flexible work approach, with office attendance guided by organizational needs and job profiles, says Nasscom.

Further to equip themselves for the future of work, enterprises are increasingly embracing new technologies, leading to a growing demand for specialist roles such as AI/ML Scientists, Quantum Computing Researchers, Quantum AI Developers, and Blockchain Specialists, Nasscom's study reported.

Among the sought-after job roles, data analytics is in the lead, followed by positions that enhance customer experiences, automation and efficiencies.

Banks to go in for big ATM push in the next 12-18 months, industry estimates

K. Ram Kumar
MUMBAI

Banks are likely to see a big ATM refresh-cum-addition cycle in the next 12-18 months, involving replacement of about 40,000 ageing ATMs, and expansion of network by about 10,000, per industry estimates.

All scheduled banks collectively added 4,452 ATMs (automated teller machines) in FY23, with their network standing at 2,19,513 as of March-end 2023, per RBI data.

White label ATM operators expanded their ATM network by 4,292 ATMs in FY23 to 35,791 as at March-end 2023.

"There will be a lot of churn in the ATM estate because many machines are ageing. They have to be refreshed. There are lot of regulations around ATM hardware and software now, making banks change old ATMs quickly," Manjunath Rao, President - Managed Services, CMS Infosystems said.

He observed that in the first half of FY24, there were bank ATM mandates for 15,000 units. This reflects their focus on replacement and network expansion.

"Private sector banks are moving from cash dispensers to cash recyclers as it will help reduce branch walk-ins for deposits. This will reduce the overall operating cost. So, this has caught their fancy.

"And, public sector banks (PSBs) are not far off. So, some of the major PSBs also, side-by-side, are putting cash recyclers," Mr. Rao said.

An ATM costs about ₹3.5 lakh while a cash recycler costs about ₹6 lakh. Assuming that 25% of the 50,000 ATMs that will be deployed will be cash recyclers, the overall capital expenditure for banks could be around ₹2,000 crore.

During 2022-23, the total number of ATMs (on-site and off-site) grew by 3.5%, primarily driven by increase in the number of white-label ATMs, according to the RBI's latest Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India.

Amongst the ATMs operated by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) at end-March 2023, the share of PSBs and PVBs was 63% and 35%, respectively.

At end-March 2023, ATMs of PSBs were more evenly distributed across geographies than other bank groups.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Govt. expands financial services scope at IFSC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has expanded the scope of activities that can be undertaken at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) by including services such as book keeping, and accounting.

As per a notification from the Finance Ministry, many services, including book-keeping, accounting, taxation, and financial crime compliance, have been included as part of financial services.

"Provided that the financial services shall be offered by units in an International Financial Service Centre regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to non-residents whose business is not set up either by splitting up of business already in existence in India; or reconstructing/reorganising of business already in existence in India," it said in a notification on January 18.

The notification stipulates the units should not offer services by way of transferring or receiving existing contracts or work arrangements from their group entities in India.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number: 96461-18774)

RFP/Tender Enquiry No. MQP-233/2023-24/PO(M) | Dated: 19.01.2024

Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, invites E-tender for Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Reading, Analysis, Integration with billing system and 1 year O & M of Power Quality Meters complying to IEC 61000-4-30 class A. For detailed NIT and tender specification, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from date of publication.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-54/24 76155/12/2624/2023/31650

MISSING PERSON

Shibu, Age-42, S/o Thampi, now residing at RC palli Veedu, Kariyam, Chellamangalam ward, Pangappara village is the Missing person in Crime 1130/22, U/s 57 of KP Act in Museum Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram City, Kerala State.

Identification Details: 5 feet height Dark colour, Stout body, Missing upper front teeth.

If traced out any information received about above person please contact on
shomsmtvm.pol@kerala.gov.in.
Inspector SHO, 9497987006, SI of Police, 9497980039
Museum Police Station 0471 2315096 21/F2/2024/I&PRD

THE HINDU GROUP

ACES SPORTS QUIZ

1. Recently, the Indian women's cricket team achieved a historic 347-run victory in a Test match. This remarkable win marks the highest margin in the history of women's Tests. Against which team did they secure this triumph?
2. Name the player who recently earned the title of the oldest participant in the Open Era to reach a men's doubles Grand Slam final, accomplishing this feat at the 2023 US Open.
3. Which chess player won the 2023 Chennai Masters tournament?

SPORTSTAR ACES 2024 INDIA TRIUMPHS
#SSaces2024

Scan the QR code, take part in the quiz and vote for your favourite stars.
Top 3 winners every day will win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday quiz:
1. MOTO GP
2. CHENNAI SUPER QUEENS
3. R PRAGGNANANDHA

Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens
Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Ground Floor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560 001, Telephone No. 080-22866066, 080-22866046 Email Address : dirdwdscka@gmai.com

No: DEDASC/2023-24/IND0014 (Call-2) Date : 22.01.2024

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) system from the original vehicle equipment manufacturers or their authorized dealers for supply of approximate 4000 Motorised Two Wheeler 124CC and above (Gearless) (Tubeless Tyre) (BS-VI)with Retrofitment of additional two wheels attachment for the use of severely affected orthopedically handicapped persons for the year 2023-24 **(Approximate bid amount is Rs.3600.00 Lakhs)** The interesting bidders may see further details and may login in website : **www.kppp.karnataka. gov.in**

The tender can be submitted on or before **29.01.2024 till 04.00 p.m.,** the technical bid will be opened on **30.01.2024 at 04.30 p.m.** and the financial bid will be opened on **03.02.2024 at 12.00 p.m.** Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the **Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone: 080-22860907.** For more info please see department **website www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Assistant Director,
Department for the Empowerment
of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/RO/3186/2023-24

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture,
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru – 560001

No.: DDA(FM&MI)/FM RfP/Kisan Drone/2023-24 Date: 18.01.2024

SHORT TERM PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture invites Short Term Request for Proposals (RFP) from OEM / Manufacturers for supply of Kisan Drones under Departmental subsidy Programmes. The OEM / Manufactures who are interested to participate in this RFP can submit their proposals through e-Procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

The interested OEM / Manufacturers can download the RfP document through e-Procurement platform at free of cost by payment of applicable e-Procurement processing fees and the EMD amount as fixed by the Department. Applications for RFP can be downloaded from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **23.01.2024** to **06.02.2024.** The last date for submission of proposals in e-Procurement platform is **06.02.2024, 4:30 p.m.**

The Hard copies (Physical Deposition) of the Technical and Financial Proposals along with other relevant documents uploaded in the e-Procurement portal will be received at the Office of the **Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farm Mechanization & Micro irrigation), Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001** upto **4:30 p.m.,** on **Dt: 07.02.2024.**

The Technical proposals will be opened on **08.02.2024** at **11:00 a.m.** in Samruddhi VC Hall, Commissionerate of agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001.

The interested Manufacturers / OEM have to register at the e-procurement cell, **Centre for e-Governance, 4th Floor, Sri Arvinda Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001** and obtain the DSC key or e-token **(Helpdesk: +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777).**

NOTE: e-Procurement processing fee is non-refundable and Tender documents are non transferable.

Sd/-, Director of Agriculture
and Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/CP/LC/3168/2023-24

Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences
Saifai, Etawah-206130 (UP)

Ref no. 1834/MM-Deptt/UPUMS/23-24 Dated: 20.01.2024

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

1. Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences Saifai Etawah hereby invited online bids/ tenders for Installation and Operation of CT Scan Machine, 1.5 Tesla MRI Machine and 1000 mA Digital X Ray Machine Dual Detector Services on PPP Basis under E-Tendering procurement rules in two cover system.
2. Important Information & dates of tender documents for open E-Tenders are available on website **http://etender.up.nic.in**. Bid documents shall be submitted online mode only.

Vice Chancellor

KYIV

Zelenskyy proposes Ukrainian citizenship for foreign fighters

AFP

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced draft legislation that could pave the way for foreigners fighting against Russia in his country to receive Ukrainian citizenship. Thousands of foreigners rushed at the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine to help fend off Moscow's forces trying to wrest control of the country. AFP

BEIJING

Dozens buried, eight confirmed killed in southwest China landslip

AP

Dozens of people were buried and eight confirmed killed when a landslip struck a remote and mountainous part of southwestern China on Monday. The pre-dawn landslip buried 18 homes and sparked the evacuation of more than 200 people when it struck in the Zhenxiong region of Yunnan province. AFP

BERLIN

Far-right AfD leader says Brexit vote is a 'model for Germany'

AFP

The co-leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party said on Monday that the Brexit vote was an example to follow for the EU's most populous country. "It is a model for Germany, that one can make a sovereign decision like that," Alice Weidel said while also adding that it would address a "democratic deficit". AFP

ISLAMABAD

Three Pakistan universities shut over security threats, say police

AFP

Three universities affiliated with Pakistan's military were shut over security threats in the capital Islamabad on Monday in the run-up to the elections that is due in two weeks. A police official said the National Defence University, the Bahria University and the Air University in Islamabad were shut due to potential threats. AFP

Iran Guards killed in 'Israel strike' in Syria put to rest

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Hundreds of mourners gathered on Monday in Tehran for the funerals of Revolutionary Guards killed in Syria, in what Iran called an Israeli strike.

It was the latest incident adding to regional tensions and fears of wider conflagration during the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

The strike in Damascus on Saturday killed five members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the military force said. Iranian media later reported the victims included the group's intelligence chief for Syria, and his deputy.

A total of 13 persons were killed, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor, which has a network of sources in the country.

Iran and Pakistan envoys to return to duty as ties improve

Ambassadors of both countries will return to their respective posts by Friday; Iran Foreign Minister to visit Islamabad next week on invitation from his Pakistani counterpart

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran and Pakistan announced on Monday that their Ambassadors would resume their duties after the two countries agreed to de-escalate tensions following an exchange of deadly strikes last week.

"It has been mutually agreed that the Ambassadors of both countries may return to their respective posts by January 26," said a joint statement by the Foreign Ministries in Tehran and Islamabad.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian is also due to visit Pakistan on January 29 following an invitation from his Pakistani counterpart Jalil Abbas Jilani, the statement said.

Thorny ties: Iran and Pakistan had exchanged deadly strikes last week as a fallout of the Israel-Hamas war. AFP

The decisions were announced following a phone call between Mr. Jilani and Mr. Amir-Abdollahian.

Pakistan launched on Thursday airstrikes on "militant targets" in Iran, two days after similar Iranian strikes on its territory.

Tehran said its strikes in Pakistan targeted Jaish al-Adl, a jihadist group which has carried out a spate of deadly attacks in Iran in recent months.

Formed in 2012, the group is blacklisted by Iran as a "terrorist" organisation.

The Iranian strikes, which killed at least two children, drew a sharp rebuke from Pakistan, which recalled its Ambassador from Tehran and blocked Iran's envoy from returning to Islamabad.

Tehran also summoned Islamabad's charge d'affaires over Pakistan's strikes on Thursday, which left at least nine persons killed.

On Friday, Mr. Jilani and Mr. Amir-Abdollahian agreed in a phone conversation "to de-escalate the situation".

Last week's rare military actions in the porous border region of Baluchistan had stoked regional tensions already inflamed by the Israel-Hamas war.

Ron DeSantis ends his U.S. presidential bid, Haley sole contestant against Trump

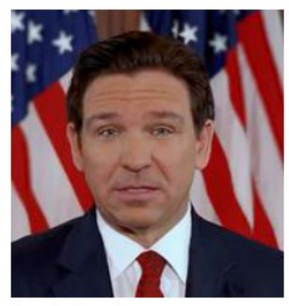
Associated Press
MANCHESTER

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis suspended his Republican presidential campaign on Sunday, ending his 2024 White House bid just before the New Hampshire primary while endorsing his bitter rival Donald Trump.

The decision leaves Mr. Trump and former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley as the last major candidates remaining in the race ahead of Tuesday's New Hampshire primary.

But as some Trump critics cheered, Mr. DeSantis nodded toward Mr. Trump's primary dominance – and attacked Ms. Haley – in an exit video.

"It is clear to me that a majority of Republican primary voters want to



Ron DeSantis

give Donald Trump another chance," Mr. DeSantis said.

He continued: "I signed a pledge to support the Republican nominee and I will honor that pledge. He has my endorsement because we can't go back to the old Republican guard of yesteryear, a repackaged form of warmed-over corporatism that Nikki Haley represents."

Ms. Haley spoke at a campaigning stop in Seabrook, New Hampshire, just as Mr. DeSantis announced his decision.

"He ran a great race, he has been a good Governor, and we wish him well," she told a room packed with supporters and media. "Having said that, it's now one fella and one lady left."

Mr. DeSantis's decision, while perhaps not surprising given his 30-point blowout loss last week in Iowa, marks the end of an extraordinary decline for a high-profile Governor once thought to be a legitimate threat to Mr. Trump in the Republican Party. After months of contentious exchanges, Mr. Trump struck a more conciliatory tone on Sunday during a rally in Rochester, New Hampshire, calling Mr. DeSantis a "really terrific person."

Families of hostages urge Israel PM to seek a deal with Hamas

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

The Israeli Army bombarded Khan Younis, the new epicentre of the war in Gaza, on Monday as the families of hostages held by Hamas urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to reach a deal to secure their release.

Witnesses reported deadly strikes overnight in Khan Younis, the largest city in southern Gaza, and fierce fighting between Israeli soldiers and Hamas militants.

The war has spurred fears of a wider escalation, and sirens were heard again overnight in northern Israel near the border with Lebanon, according to the Israeli military.

Relatives and supporters of the hostages again rallied near Mr. Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence in Jerusalem on Sunday night for their return.

Taliban enforcing restrictions on single, unaccompanied Afghan women: UN

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

The Taliban are restricting Afghan women's access to work, travel and healthcare if they are unmarried or do not have a male guardian, according to a UN report published on Monday.

In one incident, officials from the Vice and Virtue Ministry advised a woman to get married if she wanted to keep her job at a healthcare facility, saying it was inappropriate for an unwed woman to work.

In one incident, officials advised a woman to get married if she wanted to keep her job at a healthcare facility

The Taliban have barred women from most areas of public life and stopped girls from going to school beyond the sixth grade as part of harsh measures they imposed after taking power in 2021, despite initially promising more moderate rule.

They have also shut down beauty parlors and started enforcing a dress code, arresting women who do not comply with their interpretation of hijab, or Islamic headscarf. In May 2022, the Taliban issued a decree calling for women to only show their eyes and recommending they wear the head-to-toe burqa.

In its latest quarterly report, covering October to December last year, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said the Taliban are cracking down on Afghan women who are single or do not have a male guardian, or mahram, accompanying them.

Unsaid rule

There are no official laws about male guardianship in Afghanistan, but the Taliban have said women cannot move around or travel a certain distance without a man who is related to her by blood or marriage.

Russia blames Kyiv for attack on gas terminal at Baltic Sea port

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The Kremlin blamed Ukraine for an attack that started a fire at a gas terminal at the Baltic port of Ust-Luga over the weekend.

A gas facility belonging to Novatek, Russia's largest exporter of LNG, was set ablaze on Sunday in the western port town, close to Russia's border with Estonia.

"The Kyiv regime continues to show its bestial face. They are striking civil infrastructure, people," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. The gas terminal is more than 850 km from Ukraine. The fire was the latest in a series of apparent Ukrainian attacks on Russia's energy facilities. Last week Kyiv claimed responsibility for two attacks, including one in the same Leningrad region where Ust-Luga is located.

Sport

India will need a win and some luck

AFC ASIAN CUP

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA

India will look to beat the odds and hope for qualification into the knockouts when it faces Syria in its last group-stage game of the AFC Asian Cup 2023, at the Al Bayt Stadium, on Tuesday.

The Blue Tigers were left chasing shadows against Uzbekistan in their previous game, losing the match 0-3, which made their chances of progressing, almost impossible. They will now have to beat Syria and wait for results in other groups to qualify as one of the four best third-placed teams.

The good news for Igor

Last try: India will have to rely on other results to qualify for the knockouts. X@INDIANFOOTBALL

Stimac's side is the availability of a full squad for the match.

"We are still focused and well-concentrated on what we could achieve and do here tomorrow. So, all the boys here will do everything possible. Is that going to be enough? We're not sure, that's in God's hands. But hopefully, we are going to use one of our chances," Stimac said.

Syria, on the other hand, has been a defensively industrious side like a typical Hector Cuper team. Under the Argentine, who guided Egypt to the FIFA World Cup in 2018, Syria has lost just one game with a margin of more than one goal. It held Uzbekistan to a draw, lost 0-1 to Australia, and sits third in the standings, above India. A win can propel it to second if Uzbeks lose to Socceroos and Syria ends the group stage with a higher goal difference than Srejko Katanec's side.

In the other Group B game, Uzbekistan will look for revenge when it meets Australia at the Asian Cup after four years. The Uzbeks were knocked out by the Socceroos through a 4-2 win on penalties in the round-of-16 of the 2019 Asian Cup. Both games are scheduled for a 5 p.m. IST kick-off, with Australia facing Uzbekistan at the Al Janoub Stadium.

Pakistan men fail to qualify for Olympics

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

Pakistan's embattled men's hockey team has failed to qualify for the Olympic Games for a third consecutive time after losing its final shot at a Paris ticket in the FIH Qualifiers in Oman.

After losing 0-4 to Germany in the tournament's semifinal, Pakistan went down 2-3 to New Zealand in the third-place match last night, ending its chances of making it to the Olympics. Pakistan's last Olympic appearance was in the 2012 Games where the team signed off seventh.

Hussamuddin returns to India's WQT boxing squad

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

World championships bronze medal winning boxer Mohammad Hussamuddin, who was out of action with a knee injury for about six months, made a comeback to the Indian squad for the Olympics World Qualification Tournament (WQT) to be held in Busto Arsizio, Italy, from February 29 to March 12.

Hussamuddin, who had injured his left knee during the World championships in Tashkent, had gone under the knife to fix his injury. His return would boost India's chances of securing a quota place in 57kg. The squad also included Worlds medallists Deepak

Hussamuddin.

Bhoria (51kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg), multiple Asian medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), National champion Lakshya Chahar (80kg), former Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg) and Asian Games medallist Narender Berwal (+92kg) in the men's section.

Commonwealth Games medallist Jaismine Lamboria (60kg) and former World youth champion Arundhati Choudhary (66kg) were the boxers picked in the women's section. The boxers were selected after an evaluation process, conducted by the high-performance coaching staff based on various parameters.

India has already secured four quotas for Paris 2024 with Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Parveen Hooda (57kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) confirming their berths at the Asian Games. The boxers will travel to Montenegro next month to participate in a multi-nation training camp. The second WQT will be held in Bangkok from May 23 to June 3.

Red-hot Alcaraz races into last-eight; Zverev fights through; Yastremska fends off Azarenka

Third seed Medvedev, meanwhile, made to work hard by Borges before prevailing after more than three hours; Bopanna & Ebden make the doubles quarterfinals

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Charging on: Alcaraz produced some scintillating baseline hitting at the Rod Laver Arena to sweep Kecmanovic aside. AFP

Carlos Alcaraz demolished unseeded Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic to storm into the Australian Open quarter-finals on Monday as Daniil Medvedev stayed on track for a third final in four years.

The Spanish second seed, who will next face sixth seed Alexander Zverev, is locked in a fierce battle with Novak Djokovic for the World No. 1 spot and is also after his Melbourne crown.

The two-time Grand Slam winner produced some scintillating baseline hitting at Rod Laver Arena to sweep Kecmanovic aside 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 in one hour 49 minutes.

Fierce challenge

Zverev overcame a fierce challenge from British 19th seed Cameron Norrie to pull through 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (10-3) in a punishing match lasting more than four hours.

He racked up 54 winners, including 15 aces, as he chases his first Grand Slam title.

Russian third seed Medvedev was made to work hard by Portugal's Nuno Borges before prevailing 6-3, 7-6(4), 5-7, 6-1 after more than three hours.

The 27-year-old will meet Polish ninth seed Hubert Hurkacz for a place in the last four.

Big-serving Hurkacz ended the dream run of French wildcard Arthur Cazaux 7-6(6), 7-6(3), 6-4 to advance to his first quarterfinal in Melbourne.

Earlier, Ukrainian qualifier Dayana Yastremska fought off two set points in the first set and came from a break down in the second set against the two-time champion Victoria Azarenka to emerge a 7-6 (6),6-4 winner.

Her reward is a clash with unseeded Czech Linda Noskova, who went through when Ukraine's Elina Svitolina retired with a bad back while trailing 3-0 in the first set.

"I need to take a little bit of time to breathe because my heart I feel is going to jump out of my body," said Yastremska, who hammered Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova in the first round.

"I always felt like I was running behind the train, but I think because I am a little bit of a fighter that's why I won this match."

Chinese 12th seed Zheng Qinwen routed unseeded French player Oceane Dodin 6-0, 6-3.

She will face unseeded Russian Anna Kalinskaya, who beat Italian 26th seed Jasmine Paolini 6-4, 6-2.

Impressive

India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden entered the men's doubles quarterfinals with an impressive 7-6, 7-6 victory over Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Croatia's Nikola Mektic.

The Indo-Australian pair will next meet the sixth-seeded Argentine duo of Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni.

FOURTH ROUND RESULTS

Men: 9-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Cazaux (Fra) 7-6(6), 7-6(3), 6-4;
3-Medvedev bt Borges (Por) 6-3, 7-6(4), 5-7, 6-1.
6-Zverev (Ger) bt 19-Norrie (GBr) 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (10-3);
2-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Kecmanovic (Srb) 6-4, 6-4, 6-0.
Women: Noskova (Cze) bt 19-Svitolina (Ukr) 3-0, retd.;
Yastremska (Ukr) bt 18-Azarenka (Blr) 7-6(6), 6-4.
Kalinskaya bt 26-Paolini (Ita) 6-4, 6-2; 12-Zheng (Chn) bt Dodin (Fra) 6-0, 6-3.

Quarterfinal line-up

Men
1-Djokovic (Srb) vs 12-Fritz (USA)
4-Sinner (Ita) vs 5-Rublev
3-Medvedev vs 9-Hurkacz (Pol)
6-Zverev (Ger) vs 2-Alcaraz (Esp)
Women
Noskova (Cze) vs Yastremska (Ukr)
Kalinskaya vs 12-Zheng (Chn)
Kostyuk (Ukr) vs 24-Gauff (USA)
9-Krejcikova (Cze) vs 2-Sabalenka

Kohli. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Kohli pulls out of first two Tests citing 'personal reasons'

Sports Bureau

Virat Kohli will not be available for India's first two Tests against England. He has withdrawn from the Tests at Hyderabad – starting on January 25 – and Visakhapatnam, citing personal reasons.

"Virat has spoken to captain Rohit Sharma, the team management and the selectors and has emphasised that while representing the country has always been his top priority, certain personal situations demand his presence and undivided attention," said a statement from the BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

"The BCCI respects his decision and the Board and team management has extended its support to the star batter and is confident in the abilities of the remaining squad members to step up and deliver commendable performances in the Test series."

Holder Odisha FC enters the last four

SUPER CUP

Sports Bureau

Holder Odisha FC progressed to the semifinals of the Kalinga Super Cup defeating FC Goa 3-2 in a Group D league match in Bhubaneswar on Monday.

Ahmed Jahouh put the host in the lead before Mourtada Fall found the target twice to make it 3-0 by the 66th minute. Goa pulled back two goals through Carlos Martinez in the 75th and 86th minutes but fell short by one goal to see the home side secure the top position in the group with full nine points.

Odisha will meet Mumbai City FC in the second semifinal on January 25.

The result:
Group D: Odisha 3 (Jahouh 51, Fall 61, 66) bt FC Goa 2 (Martinez 75, 86).
Bengaluru 1 (Javier 58) drew with Inter Kashi 1 (Lalrindika 15).

Four-Nation tournament: Indian men open with a win over France

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
CAPE TOWN

Skipper Harmanpreet scored a brace as the Indian men's hockey team defeated France 4-0 to begin its campaign in the Four-Nation tournament on a rousing note here on Monday.

The Indian defence produced a resolute performance with France failing to get past veteran P.R. Sreejesh and Krishan Bahadur Pathak in the goal.

Flurry of goals

Harmanpreet (13th, 26th minutes) converted two penalty corners while Lalit Upadhyay (42nd) and vice-captain Hardik Singh (49) were the other scorers for India.

India broke the deadlock two minutes from the first quarter through Harmanpreet's powerful dragflick. He doubled the lead in the second quarter, converting another penalty corner.

Lalit made the scoreline 3-0 after the change of ends when he found the back of the French goal through a penalty corner variation.

In the final quarter, Hardik extended India's lead to take the game beyond France's reach by scoring a finely executed field goal.

Plotting the moves: Gukesh drew with Ju Wenjun. FILE PHOTO

Gukesh stays in joint lead in Masters

CHESS

Sports Bureau

D. Gukesh ran into Women World champion Ju Wenjun's resolute defence and drew only his second game in eight rounds of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament at Wijk aan Zee on Sunday.

The Indian youngster stayed in joint lead at five points with Anish Giri and the man who rejoined the lead, Alireza Firouzja.

While Gukesh and Anish were involved in drawn encounters, Firouzja added to the woes of World champion Ding Liren by inflicting a 43-move defeat. That meant both World champions from China were at 3.5 points before the action resumed on Tuesday after a day of rest.

Vidit Gujarathi and R. Praggnanandhaa also drew their games and moved to 4.5 points – half-a-point behind the leading trio.

Ian Nepmniachtchi nailed Uzbek youngster Nodirbek Abdusattorov, one of the overnight leaders.

The Challengers section saw Leon Mendonca and Divya Deshmukh emerge victorious while D. Harika draw her game. The victory took Mendonca to the tied second at five points with local favourite Erwin L'Ami and UAE's Saleh Salem. The trio trails French leader Marc Andria Maurizzi by half a point.

The results, eighth round:

Masters: Ju Wenjun (Chn, 3.5) drew with D. Gukesh (5); Vidit Gujrathi (4.5) drew with Alexander Donchenko (Ger, 2.5); Max Warmerdam (Ned, 4) drew with R. Praggnanandhaa (4.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 5) drew with Wen Yi (Chn, 4); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 5) bt Ding Liren (Chn, 3.5); Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE, 4.5) bt Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 4.5); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 3) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 2.5).

Challengers: Anton Korobov (Ukr, 4.5) lost to Leon Mendonca (5); Divya Deshmukh (3.5) bt Eline Roebers (Ned, 2); Jaime Santos Latasa (Esp, 4.5) drew with D. Harika (3.5); Saleh Salem (UAE, 5) lost to Marc Andria Maurizzi (Fra, 5.5); Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 4) drew with Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 5); Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 3) lost to Daniel Dardha (Bel, 4.5); Liam Vrolijk (Ned, 3.5) drew with Stefan Beukema (Bel, 2.5).

Suryakumar. AFP

Suryakumar is captain of ICC T20I Team of the Year

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

Suryakumar Yadav has been named the captain of the ICC men's T20I Team of the Year, which also includes three more Indians.

Among women, off-spinner Deepti Sharma is the lone Indian to find a place in the 11-member side to be led by Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu.

The teams: Men: Jaiswal, Salt, Pooran (wk), Suryakumar (Capt.), Chapman, Raza, Ramjani, Adair, Bishnoi, Ngarava, Arshdeep.
Women: Athapaththu (Capt.), Mooney (wk), Wolvaardt, Matthews, Sciver-Brunt, Kerr, Perry, Gardner, Deepti, Sophie, Schutt.

Gill, Shastri to get BCCI awards

Press Trust of India
HYDERABAD

Ravi Shastri will be honoured with BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award and Shubman Gill with the Cricketer of the Year award at the BCCI Awards function here on Tuesday.

Khelo India Youth Games: Haryana teams win kabaddi titles; gymnasts Aaryan, Sanyukta reign

Golden day: The Haryana boys and girls came up with their best when it mattered to claim the crown. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Haryana bagged a 'double' in kabaddi, by clinching the boys' and girls' titles in the sixth Khelo India Youth Games held on Monday.

In the boys' final, Haryana defeated Rajasthan 43-28 while the girls outwitted Tamil Nadu 40-33 in the summit clash.

Other results: Cycling (finals): Boys: Time trial (1km): 1. Aashirwad Saxena (TS) 1:12.652; 2. Vedant Jadhav (Mah) 1:13.362; 3. Gurmoor Poonia (Har) 1:14.192; **Team sprint:** 1. Kerala 1:09.856; 2. Maharashtra 1:10.434; 3. TN 1:11.156.
Girls: Time Trial (500m): 1. J. Srimathi (TN) 39.752; 2. Vimla (Raj) 40.211; 3. R. Tamilarasi 41.028; Team Sprint: 1. TN 1:20.036; 2. Rajasthan 1:20.528; 3. Maharashtra 1:20.814.
Gymnastics (finals): Boys: Artistic: All-Round: 1. Aaryan Davande (Mah); 2. Pranav Mishra (UP); 3. D. Harshit (UP); **Girls: Artistic: All-Round:** 1. Sanyukta Kale (Mah); 2. Muskin Rana (J&K); 3. Life Adlakha (Har).
Hockey: Girls: Group A: Mizoram bt Tamil Nadu 7-0; **Boys: Group A:** Punjab bt Tamil Nadu 2-1.
Squash: Boys: (semifinals): Tanveet Singh Mund (MP) bt Pr Sarvesh (TN) 11-6, 10-12, 12-14, 11-8, 11-6.
Girls: (semifinals): R. Pooja Arthi (TN) bt V. Deepika (TN) 11-5, 11-4, 11-5.
Judo: Boys: 60Kg: 1. Lucky Lucky (Har); 2. Inder Aakash Singh (Har); 3. Damal Kapil (CH) & Rattan Om (Pun); **66Kg:** 1. A. Wanglen (Man); 2. M. Wanghoi (Man); 3. Mohit Yadav (Del) & Shaurya Pawar (Del); **73Kg:** 1. Gulia Hitesh Kumar (Del); 2. Atesh Chaturvedi (Raj); 3. W. Agashin (Man) & Ram Kashvala (Guj).
Girls: 52Kg: 1. Makhwana Mherudkh (Guj); 2. Popy Bhowmik (TRP); 3. Riya Kashyap (UP) & Shaily Shukla (Guj); 57Kg: 1. Darjada Shahin (Guj); 2. Rupanshi Rupanshi (HP); 3. Nikita Nikita (Har); Shaan Shaan (Har).
Yogasana: Artistic: Singles: Boys: Rohan Sunil (Mah); 2. S. Chittesh (TN); 3. Swaraj Sunny Fiske (Mah); **Girls:** Rudrakshi Pankaj Bhave (Mah); 2. Tejaswani Jagdishrai Khinchi (Mah); 3. Pranjal Somnath Vhanna (Mah).
In Coimbatore: Basketball: Boys: Group A: Punjab bt Mizoram 105-66; UP bt MP 106-83. **Girls: Group B:** Chhattisgarh bt UP 81-50.

INBRIEF

Panthers best Warriors to extend their winning streak

Jaipur Pink Panthers posted a 42-25 victory over Bengal Warriors, to extend its winning spree to seven games, in a Pro Kabaddi League match in Hyderabad on Monday. Arjun Deshwal (15 raid points) and Ankush (6 tackle points) were the top performers of the match. In the second match, Haryana Steelers beat Telugu Titans 37-30.

Dovbyk and Torres' do the 'trick for Girona and Barca

Artem Dovbyk struck a hat-trick inside seven minutes as Girona powered back to the top of LaLiga with a thumping 5-1 win over Sevilla on Sunday. After Real Madrid scraped a controversial win over Almeria and Ferran Torres' own treble *(in pic)* helped Barcelona win at Real Betis, Girona demonstrated its title credentials. The Catalan club, in the top flight for only the fourth season in its history, is shock a challenger for the Spanish title and leads second place Madrid by a point, having played one extra game. Earlier, Barcelona secured a last-gasp 4-2 win at Real Betis, as stoppage-time goals from substitute Joao Felix and Torres helped to ease the pressure on manager Xavi Hernandez in a stuttering season. Barcelona is third in the standings on 44 points.

The results: LaLiga: Real Betis 2 (Isco 56, 59) lost to Barcelona 4 (Torres 21, 48, 90+2, Felix 90); Girona 5 (Dovbyk 13, 15, 19, Tsygankov 56, Stuani 89) bt Sevilla 1 (Romero 10). **Serie A:** Lecce 0 lost to Juventus 3 (Vlahovic 59, 68, Bremer 85).

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 CWC: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.
Australian Open: Afternoon session, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m.
AFC Asian Cup: Syria vs India, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Prabhudessai's unbeaten ton helps Goa pull off a draw against Karnataka

The opener puts on valuable stands with Kauthankar and Gaonkar to thwart the host's push for an outright victory

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
MYSURU

The Karnataka-Goa Ranji Trophy encounter at the SDNR Wadiyar Stadium petered out into a tame draw here on Monday.

With Goa starting day four on 93 for one, 84 runs behind, the host had to break open the contest in the first session to have a realistic chance of winning.

When V. Vyshak had K.V. Siddharth (57, 75b, 8x4, 1x6) caught by Devdutt Padikkal at first slip off the third ball of the morning, the victory arc had seemingly started bending towards Karnataka.

But Suyash Prabhudessai (143 n.o., 289b, 11x4) held Goa together, combining for an hour-long 31-run partnership with Snehal Kauthankar (8, 36b) for the third wicket and then being involved in a 97-run association with Deepraj Gaonkar (36, 134b, 1x4, 1x6) for the fourth wicket.

Joy unbound: Prabhudessai is cock-a-hoop after reaching a well-compiled century. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

With the possibility of a win diminishing quickly, both sides called truce 11 overs into the final session, with Goa at 282 for six, 105 runs in the green.

Below-par show

Karnataka's inability to press for full six points could be attributed to a below-par show by its bowlers, especially the spinners.

Left-arm tweakers Rohit Kumar and Shubhang Hegde came into the contest having played just eight matches (combined) and their inexperience showed. The duo struggled with both their lines and lengths, and didn't impart enough spin on the ball.

In the first innings, Karnataka allowed the visitor to add 100 runs for the last two wickets, and in the second essay, the home side failed to trouble the Goa batters on a track that was up and down and far from a feather-bed.

"I admit it's a concern," said J. Abhiram, chairman of selectors, about Karnataka's spin bowling. "Shubhang Hegde, particularly, was a very big disappointment because it was an ideal wicket for him. He needs to go back and work on his basics.

"His action is a bit distorted. I have his videos from not too long ago and he isn't the same. He is very talented cricketer and I hope he comes back strongly," Abhiram added.

The scores:

Goa — 1st innings: 321.

Karnataka — 1st innings: 498 for nine decl.

Goa — 2nd innings: Ishaan Gadekar b Vyshak 1, Suyash Prabhudessai (not out) 143, K.V. Siddharth c Padikkal b Vyshak 57, Snehal Kauthankar lbw b Venkatesh 8, Deepraj Gaonkar c Sharath b Rohit 36, Darshan Misal c Shubhang b Rohit 13, Arjun Tendulkar c Padikkal b Shubhang 6, Samar Dubhashi (not out) 0; Extras (b-11, lb-4, w-2, nb-1): 18; Total (for six wkts. in 100 overs): 282.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-94, 3-125, 4-222, 5-249, 6-270.

Karnataka bowling: Koushik 14-3-40-0, Vyshak 13-2-35-2, Rohit 19-2-67-2, Shubhang 36-5-77-1, Venkatesh 14-4-29-1, Jose 4-0-19-0.

RANJI SCORES, ROUND 3, 4TH & FINAL DAY

Elite: Group-A: At Delhi: Jharkhand 316 in 110.3 overs drew with Services 473/8 decl. in 156.5 overs (Ravi Chauhan 158, L.S. Kumar 50 n.o.). **Points: Jharkhand 1(3), Services 3(6).**

Group-B: At Dibrugarh: Andhra 188 & 334 in 90 overs bt Assam 160 & 190 in 48.2 overs (Riyan Parag 75, Sumit Ghadigaonkar 60, Lalith Mohan 4/81). **Andhra 6(9), Assam 0(1).**

At Kolkata: Bengal 381/8 decl. in 128 overs vs Chhattisgarh 214/6 in 92 overs (Ashutosh Singh 88, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 4/29). **Bengal 1(5), Chhattisgarh 1(11).**

At Thumba: Mumbai 251 & 319 in 97.4 overs bt Kerala 244 & 94 in 33 overs (Shams Mulani 5/44). **Mumbai 6(20), Kerala 0(4).**

At Meerut: Bihar 260 in 110.2 overs (Raghuvendra Pratap Singh 75 n.o., Saurabh Kuar 4/46) drew with Uttar Pradesh 45/3 in 4.4 overs. **Bihar 2(3), Uttar Pradesh 2(6).**

Group-C: At Mysuru: Goa 321 & 282/6 in 100 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 143 n.o, K. Siddharth 57) drew with Karnataka 498/9 decl. in 126.4 overs. **Goa 1(4), Karnataka 3(9).**

At Mohali: Punjab 109 in 38.5 overs (Nehal Wadhera 56) drew with Tripura 51/2 in 7 overs. **Punjab 1(1), Tripura 1(7).**

At Chandigarh: Gujarat 86/2 in 26 overs drew with Chandigarh. **Gujarat 1(13), Chandigarh 1(3).**

Group-D: At Cuttack: Odisha 130 & 198 in 43 overs lost to Jammu & Kashmir 180 & 149/8 in 43.4 overs (Abdul Samad 66 n.o., Rajesh Mohanty 5/61). **Jammu & Kashmir 6(8), Odisha 0(3).**

Hardik, Aneesh and Abhilash drafted into the Ranji squad; Shubhang dropped

Sports Bureau
MYSURU

Following two underwhelming Ranji Trophy performances against Gujarat and Goa that fetched just three points, the Karnataka selectors rang in the changes for the games against Tripura (Jan. 26, Agartala) and Railways (Feb. 2, Surat), dropping left-arm spinner Shubhang Hegde for 17-year-old Hardik Raj in a like-for-like replacement.

Shubhang picked up just six wickets over three matches and was also suspended from the attack in the first innings against Goa here for bowling two head-high full-tosses.

Successful all-rounder

Hardik, a bowling all-rounder, starred in Karnataka's maiden Cooch Behar (U-19) trophy triumph, picking up 28 wickets from eight games including two five-wicket hauls.

He also scored a century in the semifinal against Tamil Nadu.

Among other changes, 22-year-old K.V. Aneesh, another uncapped player, will replace the injured Manish Pandey.

Top-order bat Aneesh has scored two centuries in two matches in the ongoing Col. CK Nayudu (U-23) Trophy.

Left-arm medium-pacer Abhilash Shetty, 25, will take the place of the injured Prasidh Krishna.

"We have a very talented U-19 and U-23 bunch and we are not bothered about bench strength," said J. Abhiram, chairman of selectors. "It's a transition period for us and we are looking at developing a squad for the next five to six years."

The squad: Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), R. Samarth, Devdutt Padikkal, Nikin Jose, Sharath Srinivas, V. Vyshak, V. Koushik, K. Shashikumar, Sujay Sateri, D. Nischal, M. Venkatesh, Kishan S. Bedare, Rohit Kumar, Abhilash Shetty, K.V. Aneesh, Hardik Raj.

Indian men get a tough draw for Olympics

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
LAUSANNE

Asian Games champion and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist India has been placed in a tough Pool B in the men's hockey competition at this year's Paris Games.

Eight-time champion India, which clinched a historic bronze in Tokyo, has been clubbed with reigning Olympic champion and World No. 2 Belgium, mighty Australia, Rio Games gold medallist Argentina, New Zealand and Ireland. The participating teams have been allocated their respective pools on the basis of the FIH World Rankings as on Sunday.

The pools: Men: A: The Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, France, South Africa; **B:** India, Belgium, Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, Ireland.

Women: A: Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Japan, China, France; **B:** Australia, Argentina, Great Britain, Spain, USA, South Africa.